



Prophet Adam^{as}

God created the universe and everything that is in it.

Out of the millions of planets He chose the earth for His special creation.

He made the earth go around the sun and the moon go around the earth.

He made the land and the oceans and He caused life to grow on earth.

He made plants and trees and all kinds of animals.

The earth was the perfect home for humans to live in. There was air for them to breathe, the sun to keep them warm, trees to give them shade, food for them to eat and water for them to drink. So slowly but surely Allah created man.

The human race began to grow and spread. In the beginning prehistoric men hunted, gathered food, ate and slept. Gradually human beings began to learn about things. They learnt how to build themselves homes and lived in caves. The cavemen learnt to light fire, learnt how to cook their food and how to build tools and weapons to hunt and keep themselves safe. Communities and tribes began to develop.

But God Almighty had planned that they would not remain primitive forever. So, when they became wise enough to be able to understand God and His creation, He decided to choose a leader from among these people, to teach them how to lead a good and pious life. He called the Angels together and told them that He is about to place a '*Khalifa*' (Successor/ Prophet) on earth.

The Angels were unable to understand God's plan and said these people will cause disorder in the land and kill. But Allah knew that if these people were guided properly, they could become very decent human beings. He told the angels that He knew what they know not.

Allah chose Adam^{as} to be His first prophet, who lived some 6000 years ago. Like all prophets, Adam^{as} was a very kind and helpful person. He was a polite man, always respectful towards his elders and gentle with children. Allah taught Adam^{as} His names, such as Rehman; The Gracious or Rahim; The Merciful.

One day, after Adam^{as} had learned all that the Lord wished, God Almighty gathered all His angles and asked them to name some of His attributes. But the angels had no knowledge of these; they only knew what God had taught them.

God then asked Adam^{as} the same question. When Adam^{as} named all these attributes God had taught him, God turned to the angels and told them that He alone knew the secrets of the heavens and the earth.



Allah told the angels to submit to Adam^{as} as he was now a prophet of God, who would spread the knowledge of Allah to other people and it would be the angels' job to help him.



The angels did as Allah had told them to; but another creation of God, who was not an angel, refused to 'submit' to Hadhrat Adam^{as}. His name was Iblis. God ask Iblis 'what stopped you from submitting to my creation'? Iblis replied 'I am better than him'. So God turned him away.

But Iblis challenged Allah and said 'let me try to lead man away from doing good'. Iblis thought that most people would follow the wrong path but Allah knew that some good men would follow the path that leads to Allah, so He accepted the challenge of Iblis until the day of Judgement. From now on Iblis would do his best to try to lead Hadhrat Adam^{as} and his followers to do bad deeds, but Allah would guide them on the right path.

Allah told Hadhrat Adam^{as} to go and live in a place called the Garden of Eden, which was a beautiful valley, not far from where he lived. It is said that this valley was like a beautiful garden, full of tall trees and green grass. It had springs of fresh water gushing forth from the mountains.

Hadhrat Adam^{as} moved there with his wife Eve and so did the people who believed in Hadhrat Adam^{as}. A community grew, where people lived together and helped one another.

In the Holy Qur'an we read that Allah told Hadhrat Adam^{as} 'to eat from all the good things, but at the same time Allah warned him to stay away from a certain tree'. The tree was not an actual tree, but meant as a symbol of good and evil, or pure and impure things. Hadhrat Adam^{as} was forbidden to approach a certain 'tree' which was not a tree in its literal sense but a certain family or tribe, which he was warned about, because the members of that family were Hadhrat Adam's^{as} enemies and they could cause him harm.

There was a certain being whom Allah calls '*Satan*'. He was an evil person. Satan wanted to cause trouble in this peaceful community. He pretended to be Hadhrat Adam's^{as} and Eve's friend and whispered in their ears.

He deceived Hadhrat Adam^{as} and Eve into believing that he was telling them the truth. In this way he tricked them into doing something which God had forbidden them. He did this in such a clever way that Hadhrat Adam^{as} and his wife did



even realise that they were disobeying Allah. The result was terrible. Hadhrat Adam's^{as} peaceful community began to fight, argue and split.



Hadhrat Adam^{as} and Eve soon realised their weakness and mistake. They turned to Allah and begged for His forgiveness, they were ashamed of their mistake and vowed never to disobey Him again.

God knew that they had not meant to disobey Him, so he taught them how to pray for forgiveness, so Hadhrat Adam^{as} and Eve prayed:

قَالَ رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ
لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ ﴿٢٣﴾

They said: 'Our Lord we have wronged ourselves; and if Thou forgive us not and have not mercy on us, we shall surely be of the lost' (7:24)

God forgave Hadhrat Adam^{as} and Eve, however the blissful place in which he used to live was now divided and some people turned against him. Hadhrat Adam^{as} could no longer live there. Allah told him and his wife to leave, so Hadhrat Adam^{as} gathered those people who believed in him and left. And where ever he went he taught people about Allah.



Question time



Question 1: Was Adam^{as} the first man on earth?

Question 2: What is the name of Hadhrat Adam's^{as} wife?

Question 3: What does the tree symbolize in the story of Hadhrat Adam^{as} stand for?

Question 4: What did Hadhrat Adam^{as} and his wife do as soon as they realized their mistake?

Question 5: Which prayer of forgiveness did God teach Hadhrat Adam^{as} and Eve

What does the ^{as} after Hadhrat Adam^{as} stand for? It stands for 'alaih-salaam' meaning 'peace be upon him'