

## Three Aspects of Adam's Story

The story of Adam<sup>(AS)</sup> is often discussed in theological and philosophical contexts, yet many interpretations rely heavily on non-Quranic (Israelite) narratives that distort the image of Allah as a harsh and punitive Lord.

Deeper reflection on the Quran reveals a different picture, one rooted in mercy, wisdom, and the development of human consciousness. This article examines three aspects of Adam's story.

### 1. The Quranic aspect of the Adam's Story

**Adam was created as vicegerent on Earth, not in Paradise:** Quran explicitly states: Just recall the time when your Lord said to the angels, ***"I am going to appoint a vicegerent on the Earth."*** They humbly enquired, "Are you going to appoint such a one who will cause disorder and shed blood on the Earth? We are already engaged in hymning Your praise and hallowing Your name" *(They were curious as to why Allah wanted to create such a creature that who would cause mischief on earth and deteriorate the administrative system)*. Allah replied, "I know what you do not know." After this He taught Adam the names of all things, *which Adam mastered due to God-given intellect*. Then He set these before the angels and asked, "If you are right, tell Me the names of these things" They replied, "Glory be to You. You alone are free from defect. We possess only that much knowledge which You have given us. Indeed, You alone are All-Knowing and All-Wise" (2:30-32). Since Adam was to be Allah's vicegerent on earth, it was essential that he be granted freedom of choice.

Reflecting on these Quranic verses, two questions come to mind. The initial query that arises is: How did the angels foresee that humans would create chaos on earth? Scholars

provide two explanations: The first suggests that angels assumed it due to the havoc caused by jinn on earth (due to the free-will granted to them). The second reason that is mentioned in Ibn Kathir's commentary is that Allah Almighty told some angels about it. In my opinion, this makes sense because no one else knows about the future except Allah.

***My question to the reader: "Can anyone ever dare ask a pharaoh or a dictator, "What are you doing?"*** Everyone would say: *"No one would dare!"* It is the Merciful Omnipotent Lord who not only permitted such questioning but also responded with explanation. Testifying to His boundless patience, His unmatched tolerance, and His infinite mercy. It is because of His divine attributes of mercy, patience, and justice that He does not hold us to account for our misdeeds immediately.

Further, the Quran states: *"Then the two of them ate the fruit of that tree and their shameful parts became revealed to each other"* (i.e., all comforts and facilities were withdrawn), and they began to cover themselves with the leaves from the Garden. Thus, Adam disobeyed his Lord and strayed into error. *Thereafter his Lord exalted him, accepted his repentance, and bestowed guidance upon him, and then said: "Get down, both of you, (that is, man and Satan), and be out of it; each of you shall be an enemy to the other.* Hence forth if there comes to you a guidance from Me, then whosoever follows My guidance (those who ponder and follow the guidance of the Lord) *shall neither go astray nor suffer misery"* (20:121-123). *The above verses clearly indicate that Allah forgave Adam and Eve in Paradise, He made them His vicegerents on earth as per earlier verse.*

Yet most scholars try to depict the Most Merciful and All-Just Lord as a harsh Lord. That is why, on the Day of Reckoning, no one will be able to offer any excuse to evade

His justice. *O our sustainer Lord, we did not value You, which is Your right. All praises are to You, forgive us and instill Your love in our hearts. Ameen!*

## 2. Aspect of Israelite Traditions Promoted by the Miscreant Scholars

Scholars say that when Adam<sub>(AS)</sub> and Eve ate from the forbidden tree, they were expelled from the Paradise. Eve descended in what is now Jeddah and Adam<sub>(AS)</sub> on a mountain in Sri Lanka. This is absurd for two reasons, the first being crucial: *When Allah had pardoned them, why would He place them separately in different parts of the world?* For argument's sake, if we accept that they landed as claimed, it raises further questions. Adam and Eve were the only humans in the world at that time, surrounded by wild beasts.

- a) How did Eve protect herself from the wild beasts?
- b) Adam must have been an exceptional swimmer to swim across the sea from Sri Lanka to India. He must have also known the shortest 55 km swimming route to India.
- c) Adam<sub>(AS)</sub> must have had Google map installed in his brain that led him to his spouse Eve? In a narration it is said that both Adam and Eve descended on Jabal Al-Rahma (Mount Mercy), situated in Arafat, which, in my opinion, is logical and reflects the attributes of the Merciful Lord. It is also written on Jabal Al-Rahma that Adam and Eve descended on this mountain. Yet, scholars of all sects narrate Israelite traditions just to portray the Lord of the Universe as a harsh Lord. Why?

## 3. The Third Aspect in my Opinion

**Why did Allah send Adam and Eve to live in Paradise:** The Quran says that Allah made Adam his

vicegerent on earth and nowhere said that he would be his vicegerent in paradise. Although the universe and the earth existed then because the Quran mentions the jinn inhabited the earth before the creation of Adam and are still one of the inhabitants of the earth, this raises three questions.

**First question:** Why did Allah send Adam and Eve to live in Paradise? In the Quran, it is mentioned that when Satan refused to prostrate to Adam, Allah asked him: “What prevented you from prostrating when I commanded you?” He replied: “I am better than him; You created me from fire and him from clay.” Allah then instructed him: “Get down from here, for it is not for you to be arrogant in this place. Hence, be gone; you are indeed among the humiliated” (7:12-13). On reflecting on these verses raises another question:

**Second question:** What was Satan doing in Paradise after he was cast out?

**Third question:** Why did Allah prohibit Adam and Eve from eating the fruit of a certain tree among the many trees? Consider this example: If I presented you with twenty-four identical marker pens and put my finger on one and told you to choose any one you wanted except this one, wouldn't that sound absurd? It highlights its futility.

**Reflecting on the story, six reasons come to mind:**

**i)** Allah, the All-Knowing, was aware of Adam's faults and weaknesses at the time of his creation, including one major weakness that man often overlooks, which is the main reason for his failure in the test of worldly trials.

**ii)** Satan's presence in Paradise was crucial in revealing this major weakness to Adam.

**iii)** Before appointing Adam as His vicegerent on Earth, it was crucial to address his greatest vulnerability. The Quran indicates that Allah warned Adam and Eve about their staunch enemy, Satan, before sending them to Paradise.

Quran says: Recall when We said to the angels: “Prostrate yourselves before Adam”; all prostrated themselves save Satan. He refused. *Then We said: “Adam! He is an enemy to you and to your wife. So let him not drive both of you out of Paradise and plunge you into affliction,* (for in Paradise) neither are you hungry nor naked, nor face thirst or scorching heat.” *But Satan seduced him, saying: “Adam! Shall I direct you to a tree of eternal life and an abiding kingdom?”* Then the two of them ate the fruit of that tree..., thus Adam disobeyed his Lord and strayed into error (20:116-121). Despite warning them about Satan, they succumbed to temptation due to this hideous weakness and fell into affliction. When they repented, Allah forgave them in Paradise (negating the Christianity’s concept of original sin). This flaw destroys social harmony, so in my opinion facing its consequences was necessary.

**iv)** In my view, the greatest human weakness is being swayed by hearsay. Although Allah warned Adam and Eve that Satan is their eternal enemy, but, because of this weakness, they still ate the fruit of the forbidden tree. *As this weakness drives people to act irrationally, it was necessary for Adam to face its consequences before being appointed Allah’s vicegerent on earth, so that he and his descendants would strive to avoid it in this worldly life.* Unfortunately, we humans have not learned any lesson from our forefather Adam<sub>(AS)</sub>. One reason for this is that the scholars use this fabricated story as an excuse and present the merciful Lord as a very harsh Lord. Thus, we fear Him instead of loving Him, and seek His forgiveness not directly but through so-called intercessors. Which is a major source of income for the miscreant scholars.

*Societies that discourage hearsay foster mutual respect, tolerance, and economic stability. The absence of backbiting fosters high moral standards, and consequently, justice.* Therefore, overcoming this weakness is crucial for the success of this world and the Hereafter, as it encompasses

the rights of all creatures, especially humans. Allah has taught us this supplication for guidance. “O Lord, I seek refuge from the evil suggestions of (devils both humans and jinn), and O Lord, I even seek Your refuge lest they approach me (23:97-98).”

v) *Man is Allah's best creation due to his intellect and consciousness. Another purpose of the test was to make man realize the consequences of not utilizing God given intellect and consciousness. The Quran calls those who do not act with reason and understanding donkeys, cattle, or even worse.*

vi) This test could have been taken on Earth, it was taken in the Paradise to highlight that its rewards are for those who will succeed in the worldly test by utilizing their God-given abilities, intelligence, and consciousness. Rest only Allah knows best.

**Conclusion:** Allah, who loves His creatures seventy times more than their mothers, did not test Adam<sup>(AS)</sup> to convict him. Rather, as the Most Merciful Lord, He allowed Adam undergo temptation so that he might understand the consequences of his heinous weakness. And that, he and his descendants would try to overcome it for the success of the Hereafter. Doing this for fun's sake is against the attributes of Allah. It is the result of His love for mankind that He sent about one hundred and twenty-four thousand prophets and messengers to guide them. O Allah forgive us. We did not learn our lesson from the Paradise ordeal. Indeed, we are responsible for our own actions, but You are the Most Merciful, grant us the ability to follow the way You have chosen for us. Ameen!