

## WHILE READING THE BOOK ...

Dear parents and educators,

All holy books teach lessons through stories. Stories speak to everyone. Especially for children aged 7-9, stories do a lot to help them grasp important life lessons along and inspiring a sense of wonderment and understanding. The child can identify with the characters in the story and may model their own behavior after them. For this reason, we should carefully consider what books we give to our kids.

The book in your hand invites children into the world of the Prophets and their stories that take place in the Holy Qur'an. It presents to them the lives of the Prophets and other important events in simple language and fluid style. As children adventure through the book, they will see easily the repentance of Hz. Adam, the forgiveness of Hz. Yusuf, the patience of Hz. Ayyub, the struggle of Hz. Musa, the resignation of Hz. Yaqoub, the reliance of Hz. Ibrahim and the love and devotion of the Seven Sleepers.

There is something to consider: there is the possibility that children will have difficulty comprehending some ideas and concepts since they are in the concrete operational stages of their childhood. So it will be useful if you – the parents and educators – give short explanations to the questions that the children may raise. Additionally, you can enrich your child's vocabulary by directing him or her to the glossary at the back of the book in order to look up the red words that appear throughout the text. I hope all our children take full advantage of this feature...

Osman ALGIN Psychological Counselor



# DON'T FORGET!

There are some respectful greetings and expressions that are said when the names of Prophets and religious people are mentioned. Don't forget to use these expressions while reading the book.

Hazrat (Hz.): 'Hz' is the highest of all titles and means 'His/ Her Holiness'. This expresses great respect.

(as): This is an expression placed at the end of a Prophet's name. It is the shortened form of "alayhissalam." It means "peace be upon him".

Sallallahu Alayhi Wassallam (saw): The letters "saw" are located next to the name of our Dear Prophet and is the shortened form of "Sallallahu Alayhi Wassalam". This means "May Allah give him peace."

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# Stories from the Qur'an

When the last Prophet Muhammad - whose coming had been heralded from before - was born, the whole universe celebrated his arrival. All at once, many miracles occurred. He was sent to the universe as a blessing. He would call people to love, goodness, beauty, righteousness, honesty, to believing in Allah and worshipping Him...

His mother was Amina, his father was Abdullah and his grandfather was Abdul Muttalib, the leader of Makkah. He had not been born when his father died. When he was six years old, his mother died. After that, his grandfather and uncle raised him.

He was a model for young and old due to the good morals that he had had since his childhood. He was an honest person who liked helping others and doing favors. Everybody in Makkah knew him as a trustworthy man who kept his word. So, they called him 'Muhammad'ul Amin' (Trusty Muhammad).

He would treat everyone politely and with respect. There was no place for hatred, anger or jealousy in his heart. After his youth, which passed in virtue, he married Hz. Khadijah. They had children and were very happy together. The people of Makkah worshipped idols, but Hz. Muhammad (saw) knew that it was nonsense to worship pieces of stone and wood. He only believed in the One Creator.

When he was forty, he went often to the Cave of Hira, in Nur Mountain near the city. He stayed there alone, thinking about Allah who created this beautiful universe, decorated the sky with stars and made the earth.

There he worshipped Allah.

It was the month of Rama—
dan. He was again in the Cave of
Hira. Angel Gabriel came to him and said, "Read!" Hz.
Muhammad (saw) was very surprised. He replied, "I
don't know how to read." Angel Gabriel said again,
"Read!"

Hz. Muhammad repeated, "I don't know how to read."



Then Angel Gabriel taught him the first verses of the Qur'an. After this glorious meeting, Angel Gabriel told Hz. Muhammad that Allah had designated him a prophet. Angel Gabriel went on conveying the verses of the Qur'an.

Our Prophet then went and told people the verses that he learned from Angel Gabriel. He invited them to accept that Allah is God alone and to believe that he was the prophet of Allah.

The Qur'an became a life guide for people, showing them how to best live their lives and how to be happy both in this world and in the hereafter. The Qur'an was completed twenty-three years later.

Now, let's start reading the stories that take place in our dear book, the Qur'an, beginning with the creation of the first man and first prophet, Adam...



# The Wish of Allah

There was no one in the universe. Allah wanted to create people so that they could know Him, love Him and worship Him.

> He said to the angels, "I will create someone who will be My deputy to this universe I have made!"

The angels said, "Oh Lord! Why will You create someone who will make mischief and hurt things, when we eagerly glorify You and obey Your every command?"

Allah said, "I know what you don't know!"

The angels were quiet. Then they said to each other, "Of course our Lord knows best. He doesn't create anything in vain."

Allah called to them. "Oh My angels! When I create him from clay and give him life, you will all bow to him and show him respect."



The angels said together: "Oh Our Lord! We listen to Your order and resign ourselves to You!"

## THE ARROGANT DEVIL

Allah told His angels that He would create a human who would be His deputy of the universe, and had commanded them to bow to him. But the Devil didn't like Allah's command. The Devil had become arrogant, and thought himself better than all the creatures that Allah created.

Allah created Hz. Adam as the first man. He decorated him with knowledge. The angels immediately bowed to him at Allah's command. But the Devil rebelled at that moment. He refused to bow. Thus, he became the first to turn against Allah.

Allah asked him, "Why don't you obey My command? Why don't you bow?"



The Devil said, "You created me from fire, but You created him from clay. Obviously I am better than him!"

With that arrogant statement, God threw the Devil from Heaven and said, "Be gone! You are banished! You have forgotten your place!"

The Devil was at a loss. He said, "my Lord! I have been banished from heaven because of Adam. So I will take my revenge by misleading him and his children. I will lure them to evil and false ways."

Almighty Allah commanded,

"Oh Devil, who has been banished from My heaven and thrown from My mercy! I gave Adam and his children, whom I created from clay, minds of their own. They can distinguish good from evil and they won't listen to you. Those who follow you have done so on their own, and they alone can take responsibility for their actions. They, too, deserve to be punished. You will be unable to corrupt My good servants who obey My rules. I permit you to live until Qiyamah."



### THE SUPERIOR CREATURE

The Almighty Creator, Who knows everything, wanted to show that Hz. Adam was more intelligent and superior to the angels. First, He taught him the names of all creatures. Then He brought all the different kinds of animals to the angels and said, "Oh My angels! Tell Me their names!"

The angels said, "Oh our Lord! It is only You Who knows everything. We don't know anything but what You have told us."

The Compassionate Creator said to Hz. Adam, "Oh Adam! Tell the angels the names of these creatures!"

Hz. Adam told the angels the names of each of the animals.

He named them one by one... lion, giraffe, cat, dolphin, elephant, chicken...

> Allah said "Oh my angels! Do you see

now? Didn't I tell you that I know everything, hidden or clear on heaven and earth?"

Thus, the Angels understood and accepted that Hz. Adam was a superior creature.

# THE CONGENIAL COMPANION: HAWWA

Allah placed Hz. Adam into Paradise. Hz. Adam lived alone, eating the fresh fruits of Paradise and drinking its clear, delicious water. But he didn't have anyone to talk to, a companion. Almighty Allah decided to create a companion for him so that they could live together.

One day, Hz. Adam woke up to find that there was a woman sitting next to him. He asked with astonishment, "Who are you? What is your name?"

The woman sitting next to him said, "I'm a woman, but I don't know my name."

Hz. Adam looked at her carefully and joyfully.

He said excitedly, "Your name is Hawwa!"

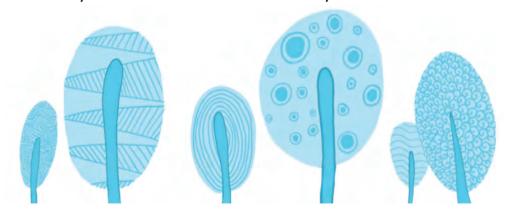
At that moment the angels came and said, "Oh Adam! Tell us, what is her name?"

Hz. Adam answered, "Her name is Hawwa."

After that, Hz. Adam and Hawwa lived in peace and happiness in Paradise.

### THE FRUIT OF THE FORBIDDEN TREE

Hz. Adam and Hawwa were in a state of bliss in Paradise. They knew neither fear nor exhaustion. They ate and drank whatever they wanted.





One day Almighty Allah showed them a tree and said, "oh Adam! Stay in Paradise with your wife. Eat and drink whatever you want, but never go near that tree."

Allah made the tree off-limits to teach Adam and Hawwa to keep balance and moderation in their lives, that they cannot do whatever they wanted. Both of them listened to the command of the Creator and went on living in happiness in heaven.

Allah had warned them about the Devil.

He said, "he is your enemy. Stay away from him." But the Devil was constantly thinking up ways to deceive them. One day he came up to them and whispered, "Oh Adam! Don't you want to live forever? Will you let me show you something that lets you live forever?"

Hz. Adam was surprised and said, "What is it? Show me."

The Devil pointed at the tree, the tree Allah had forbidden.

Hz. Adam dismissed him. "Get away from me! Allah told us not to go near that tree. I cannot disobey Him."

But the Devil didn't stop. He came again and said, "Do you know why your Lord has forbidden going near that tree?"

Hz. Adam asked, "Why?"

The Devil said, "if you eat the fruit of that tree, you will stay in Paradise forever. That's why He doesn't want you to eat it. Come on, what are you waiting for? Eat the fruit of the tree!"

Hz. Adam dismissed the Devil again.

As the Devil was leaving he said trickily, "trust me! I swear to Allah I'm telling you the truth."

The Devil's last statement made Hz. Adam and Hawwa wonder. They said to each other, "He swore in the name of Allah! He can't be lying." They went to the Forbidden Tree.

### DISGRACE

They went to the Forbidden Tree. Its fruits were shining and looked juicy and delicious. They plucked off a fruit and bit into it. At that moment something happened! There was nothing covering their bodies. They were ashamed. They tried to cover themselves with the leaves from a fig tree. The Almighty

Creator saw them and knew that they had disobeyed His command. When He saw Hz. Adam and Hawwa running away ashamed, He called out, "Adam! Are you running away from Me?"

