

NABIE AIYUB (JOB) AS*

*(We must always say Alayhis Salaam when we mention the name of a Prophet. It means, "May ALLAH - Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala's blessing and mercy be on him")

Story Number

18

My Dear Children,

In the last three issues of Al Mujaddid we had the beautiful story of Nabie Yusuf (Joseph-Alayhis Salaam). In this issue we are going to talk about Nabie Aiyub (Job-Alayhis Salaam). In this story we learn of the strong faith of Nabie Aiyub and how he accepted that ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) was merciful even when he suffered the most terrible hardships here on the earth. Here we witness how through his faith and his patience he was able to change his misfortune and ill health to become healthy and rich again.

Nabie Aiyub (Alayhis Salaam) lived near the Arabian Desert on the Eastern boundary of Palestine. He lived in the year 586 BC (Before Christ). He was a very wealthy man. He possessed large pieces of land and owned over 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 1000 cattle and 500 donkeys. He had a number of servants working for him and looking after his animals and land. Although he was a very rich man he did not become arrogant. He always accepted the fact that it was ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) who had graced him with all this wealth and his family. In his prayer he always accepted that *ALLAH, the Glorious, was the most merciful of those who show mercy.*

NABI AIYUB (ALAYHIS SALAAM) LOSSES HIS WORLDLY POSSESSIONS

However, there came a time when everything began turning against Nabie Aiyub (Alayhis Salaam) and he started suffering from one disaster after another. One day his servants came running to him and informed him that while they were plowing the fields the thieves attacked them and killed the other servants and stole all the cattle. His response was that *ALLAH, the Glorious, was the most merciful of those who show mercy.* That same afternoon another of his servants came and informed him that a huge fire came from the sky and burned all his sheep and the shepherds that attended to them. Again he accepted this news with the words that *ALLAH, the Glorious, was the most merciful of those who show mercy.*

The next morning another of his servants came to him crying and breaking the news to him that some robbers had appeared and stole all his camels and donkeys. The fourth calamity that he received was that his children were all killed when the roof of the house fell on them while they were playing in the room. When he heard the last bit of news his reaction was the same as on the previous occasions. He held up his hands towards his Creator and said, *Oh ALLAH, the Glorious, You are the most merciful of those who show mercy.*

We note this excellent quality in Nabie Aiyub (Alayhis Salaam) and realise the magnificent strength that he possessed and the absolute faith that he had in his Creator by accepting that all the worldly things that he had did not belong to him but were the possessions of ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala).

HE SUFFERS PERSONALLY

He had lost all his animals, all his wealth, and all his children. He was left with his faithful wife who looked after him. It was not long before another tragedy struck him personally. Sores started developing on his body. These sores became larger and started covering his whole body from his head to his feet. The sores turned into pus and very soon worms started developing in these sores. When his friends saw these terrible sores they avoided him and stayed away from him. He was soon abandoned by his friends as they were saying that he must have done something terribly wrong to deserve such a punishment. All his friends soon forgot about him. The only person that stayed at his side was his wife, Rahima (RA), who not only sympathized with him but also looked after him and cared for him.

One day Rahima (AS) got tired and suggested to her husband that he should curse the Creator and rather die than suffer all this discomfort with all these ugly sores all over his body. Nabie Aiyub (Alayhis Salaam)

scolded his wife and warned her not to say that again and also promised to punish her with 100 lashes for showing disrespect to the Creator.

With all this discomfort and suffering that no one had suffered before, Nabie Aiyub (Alayhis Salaam) still remained faithful, thankful and showed great patience towards his Creator and as always accepted that ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) *was the most merciful of those who show mercy.*

NABI AIYUB (ALAYHIS SALAAM) PRAYS

One day when Nabie Aiyub called out to his Merciful Creator that he was in great agony, pain and suffering, ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) accepted his prayer and his life started changing again for the better because he showed great humility, patience and had great faith in his Creator. Besides, he was also an excellent servant as he always turned to his Creator in complete submission. (Qur'an 21:83-84).

ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) commanded Nabi Aiyub, "Strike your foot on the ground!" When Nabi Aiyub struck his foot on the ground a spring of water bubbled out of the ground and clear, clean water flowed as a gushing fountain from the ground. He was commanded to wash his entire body with this clean water and also to drink this cool refreshing water, (Qur'an 38:42).

As soon as he began washing and drinking this water the ugly sores started healing and over a few days dried up and eventually disappeared completely from his entire body. This water also refreshed his spirit. Nabi Aiyub (Alayhis Salaam) not only regained his health again but also his wealth. His property was restored, his heads of cattle, camels and sheep increased to such an extent that they doubled to what he had before the calamity struck him. He was also blessed with seven sons and four fair daughters.

Although he soon became wealthier than before he always accepted that *ALLAH, the Glorious, was the most merciful of those who show mercy.* One day he was reminded by ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) to fulfill his oath that he took when his wife Rahima (AS) showed disrespect. He was ordered to take a bundle of thin grass and strike his wife gently to fulfill his promise. Again he was found to be an obedient servant and carried out this task with full patience and faithfulness. He passed away at the age of 93 as a true servant of the Creator.

This is a good example given to us of someone who had great patience and absolute faith in ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) regardless of the great loss of all possessions and personal discomfort and calamities.

From the story of Nabi Aiyub (AS), we also learn that:

- He was steadfast in his belief in ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) and was regarded as an excellent servant who always turned to his Creator in prayer regardless of the calamity. From the first loss to his worst one, Nabi Aiyub (Alayhis Salaam) had faith that *ALLAH, the Glorious, was the most merciful of those who show mercy.* He maintained complete faith in the Creator under all circumstances.
- He was a good example to the poor, the weak, the sick and the abandoned by never giving up or turning to disrespect, and the evil and sinful ways.
- We also learned that the so-called bad days are only a passing phase for the believers, as their faith will once again restore for them the blessing and mercy from their Creator.
- Every fall or hardship on earth is a test for us.
- He showed all of us that every step downwards in earthly difficulty elevated man two stages higher in faith. Thus one should never grumble or be dissatisfied when one is experiencing the worse.
- We must have absolute faith in our Creator and develop a correct understanding of our life in this world, which is a preparation for a better life in the Hereafter.