

NABI EBRAHIM (ABRAHAM) AS* Part 1

*(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

9

My Dear Children

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

Our previous example on Nabie Saaleh (Alayhis Salaam) was a great lesson for the people of Thamud as well as for us today. Nabie Saleh (Alayhis Salaam) continually reminded his people to pray to the ONE and Only ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala). They did not listen to him but carried on praying to their idols. The houses and buildings of the Ad people, which were carved out in the mountains were flattened by an earthquake caused by AL KADIR –one who has power over all things (another of the 99 beautiful names of ALLAH - Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala). Today, we in Islam are also reminded to believe Only in ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) and to do good deeds. Our Qur'an reminds us that a severe punishment awaits someone who makes partners with HIM and does not follow the prescribed way of life.

Today's lesson is about Nabie Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam - Abraham –may peace and blessing be on him). This is a very long story and will be divided up into three parts.

In this particular town or village the people had turned away from worshipping the One and only ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) and started to pray to idols carved out of stone. They kept their idols in one large room and everybody used to visit this room to pray to their respective idols. Each family had their own idol god that they prayed to. Some had small idols and the richer people owned the bigger idols. Some even had very tiny idols, which they took with them on their journey to do business.

In this town there lived a very famous man called Azar. His profession was to carve idols and sell them to make a living. He made a very good living from it. He had a son called, Ebrahim who was very pious, truthful, honest, kind and helpful to the people of this town. Ebrahim looked at the ways of his people and wondered why they worshipped the idols. He knew that the idols were made of stone and did not have any power to do anything. The idols were powerless to even shoo the flies away from sitting on them. The mice even ate their food left by the people and they could not do a thing.

AGAINST THE IDOLS

One day Ebrahim asked his father, "Why do you bow down to these idols? Why do you prostrate before them? Why do you ask them to help you? They cannot speak nor do they have any power to do anything for you and why do you take them to be your god?" When Azar heard this he became very angry and scolded him.

Ebrahim then went to the people and asked them the same questions. He tried to reason with them but they too got angry and some did not understand his talk and others did not want to take his advice. Ebrahim now made up his mind to teach these people a lesson.

TEACH THEM A LESSON

It was a festival day and the people were in a happy mood celebrating this day. All the people had decided to go on a picnic. When Azar was about to leave he asked his son, "Ebrahim are you not coming with me to celebrate." "No father I am not feeling well and I would like to stay at home", said Ebrahim. When everyone was gone Ebrahim went to the house where all the idols were kept and spoke to them, "Hello how are you today? There is your food and drink, why don't you eat it? Go on help yourselves." Not a word was heard from them as they were made of stones. Ebrahim then raised his voice, "What is the matter with you, can't you talk?" Ebrahim then got angry and took an axe and started destroying the idols. Some of the idol's heads were chopped off, others arms and legs were broken. Ebrahim broke all of them except the largest idol in this room. He took the axe and hung it around the neck of this huge idol and left this room.

WHO BROKE THE IDOLS?

When the people came back to the town in the afternoon they all went to this room to pray as it was the end of the festival day. When they entered the room they were completely shocked, amazed and very, very angry at what they saw. "Who did this? Who has done this to our gods?" Some people who had heard Ebrahim talk ill of their gods said, that they had heard that Ebrahim spoke very disrespectfully about their gods. They immediately sent out three strong men to bring Ebrahim to answer for this.

They got hold of him and brought him to the angry people who were still in the room. "Are you the one who has done this to our gods?" were their angry questions. Ebrahim immediately replied, "No, No, of course not, can't you see that it was done by this big idol, see he still has the axe around his neck." "Go on, ask him and he will tell you?" They replied, "O Ebrahim you know that they cannot reply and speak." When he heard this Ebrahim mentioned that he does not understand them. "Then why do you worship things that have no power to do anything for you." Although the people could not give an answer they were still very angry.

The people of the town called a meeting to decide to punish Ebrahim as he was the guilty one. At this meeting they discussed ways of punishing Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam). "Give him a hiding" "Chase him out of town" but the majority indicated, "Kill him, Kill him." Eventually they had all agreed to kill him by burning him alive so that it is a lesson to all the other youths, who may disrespect their gods.

LETS BURN HIM ALIVE

They hurriedly went about collecting wood to build a huge fire. All the people had gathered there to watch this punishment. When the wood was all piled up they lit the fire. When the fire was burning fiercely and flames were leaping into the air they took Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) and tossed him into the fire. Everyone was expecting to hear the screams of Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) but ALLAH - Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) commanded the fire,

"O FIRE BE COOL, AND A MEANS OF SAFETY FOR EBRAHIM." (Quran 21:69)

The fire become cool to Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) and instead of burning him protected him. All the people were amazed that the fire did not harm him and he was safe. This incident, instead of convincing the people of the power of ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala), they started making new idols and carried on worshipping them.

THE CRUEL KING

The cruel and powerful King of the area came to hear of Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) and his insistence of calling the people to the worship of the One and Only God. He also heard that Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) would not bow down to anyone accept his Creator. This made the King summon Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) to his court to answer a few questions. When he appeared before the King he did not bow down to him as everyone else did.

This made the King angry and he asked Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) "Who is your Lord and King?" "My lord is ALLAH - Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala- the one who gives life and causes death." The King laughed at this remark and he commanded that two men be brought into the palace.

"You see Ebrahim I am the one who gives life and causes death." He called his guards and asked that the first man be killed. "You see Ebrahim I cause death." He called the second man and indicated that this man also be killed. This man prostrated himself and pleaded to the King to spare his life. The King stopped his guards and let the man live. "You see Ebrahim I gave him life."

Ebrahim (Alayhis Salaam) regarded this as stupid reasoning and decided to challenge the king, "It is ALLAH - Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala who causes the sun to rise in the East and set in the west. Can you make it rise in the west and set in the east." The King did not know what to say to this and he could not think of a reply. With angry words the King chased him out of his palace.

To be continued.....