



A STORY TO READ ALOUD

# The Story of Prophet Hud (AS)

هود

*The strongest people in the land had gardens, springs and tall towers,  
and forgot who gave them. One prophet stood alone and relied on  
Allah.*

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# The Story of Prophet Hud (AS)

*"I rely on Allah, my Lord and your Lord."*

Hud 11:56

Come with me. Today, we're going on a journey... far, far away... and long, long ago.

Picture a land of sand. Not flat sand. Great curving dunes, rising and falling like waves in a golden sea.

Listen. A soft wind is moving over them. Shhhh... A dry, gentle whisper across the sand.

Between the dunes there are valleys. And in those valleys live a people so tall... and so strong... that they think nothing in the whole world could ever stand against them.

One day, the people look up.

Far away, at the edge of the sky, something is coming toward their valleys. Something dark. Something wide.

A cloud.

They come out of their tall houses. They point at it. They call to one another, and their voices are glad.

"Look! This is a cloud bringing us rain!"

But it is not rain.

So what is it? And why had one man kept asking these people to say sorry to Allah?

To understand that cloud, we have to meet these people on a clear, bright day... back when the sky was blue... and they had everything.

This is the story of Prophet Hud... alayhis salam.

Long, long ago, after the people of Prophet Nuh, alayhis salam, were gone... Allah made a new people grow strong in the land. They were called 'Ād.

They lived in a place called al-Aḥqāf. It means the sand dunes. Scholars tell us it was in the far south of Arabia, in the lands we now call Yemen, close to Oman.

And the people of 'Ād had so much.

Allah had made them tall. Broad. Strong. Stronger than any people around them.

They had herds of animals, grazing wherever the ground was green. They had children... lots of children... running and laughing between the houses.

They had gardens. And springs of cool, clear water, bubbling up out of the ground.



*The People Who Had Everything*

Can you imagine it? Hot sand all around you... and then you step into a shady garden, and you hear a spring trickling. Can you feel how cool that water is on your fingers?

And oh... how they built.

On every high place, they put up a great, dazzling building. Not because they needed it. Just for show... just to amuse themselves.

The Qur'an speaks of their tall pillars. It says no people like them had ever been created in the land.

They built strong fortresses, thick and high... as if they were going to live in them forever.

Every one of those gifts came from Allah. The strength. The children. The gardens and the springs. Even the soft wind that whispered over their dunes.

But the people of 'Ād had drifted far away from Allah. Over a long time, they had carved statues out of stone. They gave the statues names. And they worshipped them... instead of the One who had given them everything.

And the stronger they grew... the prouder they became.

So Allah sent them a messenger.

Not a stranger from far away. One of their own. The Qur'an calls him their brother.

His name was Hud.

Prophet Hud stood among his people, and he said, "O my people... worship Allah. You have no god other than Him. Will you not be mindful of Him?"

"I am a messenger you can trust," he told them. "And I do not ask you for any payment. My reward is only from the One who created me."

Then he reminded them of everything they had.

"Be mindful of the One who gave you all that you know," he said. "He gave you animals, and children... and gardens, and springs."

"Remember how He made you the ones who came after the people of Nuh... and made you tall, and strong."

Fadhkurū ālā'a-llāhi la'allakum tufliḥūn.

"So remember the gifts of Allah... so that you may succeed."

Take a slow breath in... and out. Now think of one gift Allah gave you today. Maybe a cool drink of water. Maybe a warm hug. Just one gift... and Who it came from.



*Say Sorry, and the Rain Will Come*

That was what Hud was asking his people to do. Remember. And be thankful to the One who gave.

And Hud brought them a promise from Allah. A beautiful one.

"O my people," he said, "ask your Lord to forgive you. Then turn back to Him."

Istaghfirū rabbakum thumma tūbū ilayh.

"He will send rain down from the sky upon you, in showers. And He will add strength to your strength."

Imagine that. They were already strong. And Allah was offering them even more... rain for their gardens, strength on top of their strength... if only they would say sorry, and come back.

The door was wide open. They only had to walk through it.

But the important men of ‘Ād, the ones who refused, only mocked him. "We think you are foolish," they said. "And we think you are lying."

Imagine their laughter rolling down the valley... bouncing off the tall stone walls.

Listen to how Hud answered them.

"O my people... there is nothing foolish in me. I am a messenger from the Lord of all the worlds. I bring you the messages of my Lord. And I am someone you can trust to give you good advice."

But they would not listen. "Have you come to make us worship Allah alone," they said, "and leave what our fathers worshipped? It is all the same to us whether you warn us or not. We will not be punished."

A few people listened to Hud... and believed him. But most of 'Ād would not.

Imagine the chiefs turning their backs on him... and walking away, up toward their great fortresses, so sure of themselves.

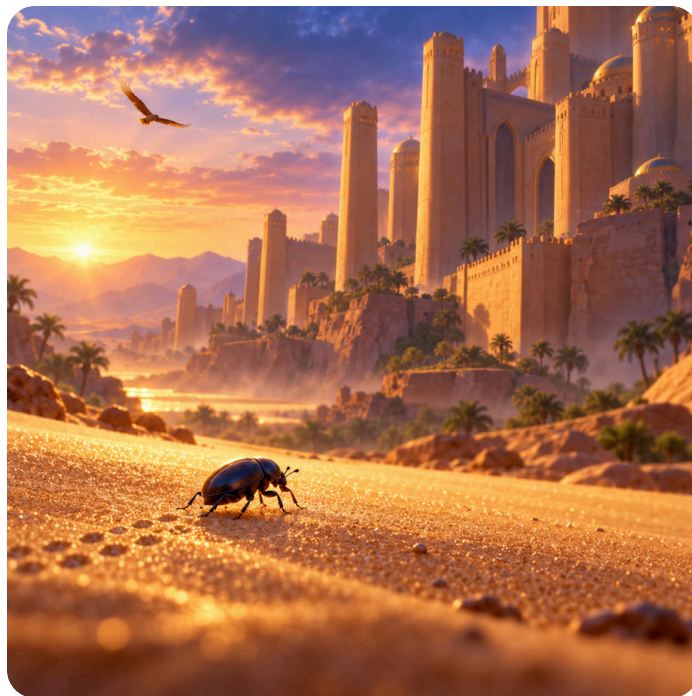
And then, in their pride, they said the biggest words of all.

"Who is stronger than us?"

The Qur'an answers them. Did they not see... that Allah, who created them, is far stronger than they are?

Their tall pillars... the strength in their arms... all of it was a gift from Allah.

The people of 'Ād grew angrier.



*Allah Holds Every Creature*

"O Hud," they said, "you have not brought us any clear sign. We will not leave our gods just because you say so. And we will never believe you."

They even said that one of their stone gods must have done something bad to him.

Now picture it. One man... and in front of him, the whole proud nation of 'Ād. Tall. Strong. Their great fortresses standing behind them.

And Hud said, "I call Allah to witness... and you be witnesses too... that I have nothing to do with the things you worship besides Him."

"So make your plans against me, all of you together. And do not give me even a moment to wait."

All of them... against one man. How could he speak like that?

Because of what he said next.

"I rely on Allah, my Lord and your Lord. There is no creature that moves, except that He holds it by its forelock."

Mā min dābbatin illā huwa ākhidhun bi-nāṣiyatihā.

The forelock is the hair at the very front of the head. Hud was telling them that every creature on the earth is under Allah's power. Every camel in the desert. Every bird in the sky. Every tall, proud man of 'Ād.

Not one of them could do a single thing unless Allah allowed it.

"Indeed," Hud said, "my Lord is on a straight path." Allah is always fair. He never wrongs anyone.

So Hud was not leaning on his own strength. He was leaning on Allah. And no one... no one at all... is stronger than Allah.

Outside, the soft wind kept whispering over the dunes. Shhhh... And it, too, moved only by Allah's command.

But the people still would not turn back.

"Then bring us what you promise," they said, "if you are telling the truth."

Hud answered, "Only Allah knows when it will come. I only tell you the message I was sent with."

"So wait," he said. "And I will wait with you."

"And if you turn away... I have already given you the message. My Lord will bring another people after you. And you cannot harm Him in the least."



*The Cloud That Was Not Rain*

And then the day came. The one we started with.

The people look up. A dark, wide cloud is coming toward their valleys.

"This is a cloud bringing us rain!"

But it was not the rain they hoped for.

It was a wind. The very thing they had dared Hud to bring.

The Qur'an tells us it was a roaring, mighty wind. By Allah's command, it blew for seven nights and eight days, without stopping.

And when at last it was quiet... the valleys were still.

The Qur'an says that nothing of them could be seen... only their homes. And the proud people who had asked, "Who is stronger than us?"... were gone.

But Hud was safe. And so was every single person who had believed with him.

The Qur'an tells us that when Allah's command came, He saved Hud and those who believed with him... by mercy from Him.

Not by their own strength. Not by tall buildings or thick fortress walls. By Allah's mercy.

The strongest people in the land were gone. And the ones who had leaned on Allah were kept safe.

And Allah did not let Hud's story be forgotten. In the Qur'an, Allah told Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, "Mention the brother of 'Ād." And a whole surah of the Qur'an carries his name... Surah Hud.

So now we know what that dark cloud was. It was not rain.

The real rain had been offered all along, in Hud's promise from Allah. Ask your Lord to forgive you... turn back to Him... and He will send rain from the sky, and add strength to your strength.

And now... slowly... we leave al-Aḥqāf behind. The curving dunes. The quiet valleys. The soft wind whispering over the sand. Shhhh... And we travel back home. To right here. Right now.

I wonder how many of Allah's gifts you will notice tomorrow... and how many times you will say thank you.

These are Prophet Hud's own words, from the day he stood before them all. They mean... I rely on Allah, my Lord and your Lord. Whisper them with me, if you like...

Innī tawakkaltu 'ala-llāhi rabbī wa rabbikum.

# Talk about it

Read a question aloud and let your child answer before you show the choices. Then ask: what would you have done?

## 1. Who was sent to the people of 'Ād?

- a. Prophet Hud
- b. Prophet Salih
- c. Prophet Shuayb

## 2. In Prophet Hud's story, what does the Qur'an call Hud?

- a. Their brother
- b. Their king
- c. A stranger

## 3. In Prophet Hud's story, what were his people called?

- a. The people of 'Ād
- b. The people of Thamūd
- c. The people of Madyan

## 4. In Prophet Hud's story, what does al-Aḥqāf mean?

- a. The sand dunes
- b. The seashore
- c. The high mountain

## 5. In Prophet Hud's story, which gifts did Allah give 'Ād?

- a. Gardens and springs
- b. Gold and silver coins
- c. Ships on the sea

## 6. What did Prophet Hud ask his people to remember?

- a. The gifts of Allah
- b. Their tall buildings
- c. The gods of their fathers

Answers: 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6a



## Hear this story

Read it again online, or listen to it narrated in the Sukun Kids app.

**[sukunkids.app/stories/hud](https://sukunkids.app/stories/hud)**

Sukun Kids: stories of the prophets for Muslim children, narrated for bedtime.

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