



A STORY TO READ ALOUD

The Story of Prophet Salih (AS)

صالح

When the mountain split open, a living she-camel walked out of the solid rock by Allah's command.

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The Story of Prophet Salih (AS)

“This is the she-camel of Allah, a sign for you.”

Surah al-A'raf · 7:73

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

Picture a mountain. A huge one, bare rock, reddish-gold, standing under a wide empty sky.

A crowd of people is gathered at the bottom of it. Hundreds of them. They are standing very still, arms folded, waiting. Some of them are smiling the way people smile when they think somebody is about to fail.

And one man stands in front of them all, with his hands open, praying.

Then the mountain moves.

Not the whole mountain, one part of it. The solid rock shivers. It cracks. It opens, the way a door opens... and out of the middle of the stone...

...walks a camel.

A living camel. Enormous. Calm. Blinking in the sunlight. Walking out of solid rock as though she had simply been waiting in there all along.

And the whole crowd goes completely silent.

This is the story of Prophet Salih... alayhi salaam... and the she-camel of Allah.

Long, long ago... in a land of red rock and desert valleys, a place in the north of what we now call Saudi Arabia, there lived a people called Thamud.

And the people of Thamud were clever. Really, genuinely clever.

They were the best builders anyone had ever seen. They did not just build houses out of bricks like everybody else. They took their tools... and they walked up to the mountains... and they carved their homes right into the rock.

Imagine that. Great doorways cut into a cliff. Rooms hollowed out of solid stone. Beautiful carved pillars, right there in the mountainside. Cool in the summer. Warm in the winter. Strong enough to last for hundreds and hundreds of years.

Allah had given them so much. Good land. Gardens. Springs of fresh water. Date palms heavy with fruit. Strength in their arms and cleverness in their hands.



The Camel from the Rock

But here is what happened to their hearts.

They looked at everything they had... and instead of saying thank You, Allah... they said look what we did.

They became proud. And they stopped worshipping Allah, and started worshipping statues they had carved themselves, with the very same hands and the very same tools.

Statues that could not see them. Could not hear them. Could not help them with anything at all.

So Allah sent them a prophet.

And He did not send a stranger. He sent one of their own people, a man they had known since he was a boy. A man they trusted. His name was Salih.

Before Salih ever said a word about Allah, the people of Thamud already liked him. He was honest. He was thoughtful. They used to say he was one of the best among them, and they had big hopes for him.

Then Salih stood up in front of them and said the thing Allah sent him to say:

"O my people... worship Allah. You have no god other than Him."

He reminded them of everything. Look at your gardens. Look at your springs. Look at these homes you carved so beautifully into the mountains. Who gave you the land? Who gave you the water? Who gave you the strength in your arms and the cleverness in your hands?

All of it is from Allah. So be grateful to Him. And worship Him alone.

And a few of them listened. Mostly the ones who did not have very much, the poor, and the ones nobody important paid attention to. They heard Salih, and they believed.

But the chiefs, the proud, powerful, wealthy men at the top, folded their arms and said no.

"Salih," they said, "we used to have such hopes for you. And now you tell us to leave what our fathers worshipped?"

Then they said: "If you really are a prophet... bring us a sign."



A Day for Her, a Day for You

And that is how everyone ended up standing at the foot of that mountain.

The people had chosen the sign themselves. They pointed at the solid rock and said: bring us a camel out of that.

So Salih prayed to Allah. And Allah, who made the mountains in the first place, split the rock open.

And the she-camel came out.

She was a wonder. Everybody could see it. There was nothing ordinary about her at all.

And Salih turned to his people and said:

"This is the she-camel of Allah, a sign for you."

"So let her eat freely in Allah's earth. And do not touch her with any harm."

That was it. That was the whole rule. Two simple things. Let her eat. Do not hurt her.

And there was one more arrangement, because water was precious in that dry land. Allah told them the water would be shared, turn and turn about. One day, the she-camel would drink. The next day, all the people would drink.

A fair share. A day for her, a day for them.

And here is the part people forget.

On the day the she-camel drank... she gave milk.

Not a little. Not a cupful. She gave milk for the whole town.

Everybody came out with their bowls and their jars and their buckets. The old people. The families. The children. And every single person who came... went home with enough.



Three Days to Come Back

Imagine that. She drank their water for one day... and she fed all of them in return.

So she was not a burden. She was not something they had to put up with. She was a gift. Walking around their valley, quietly giving them more than she ever took.

That is how Allah's signs usually are, if you look properly. They do not just prove something. They give you something at the same time.

Now think about how gentle this test was. Allah could have asked them to do something enormous and difficult. Instead He asked them to be kind to an animal, and to take turns.

That was all.

For a while... it worked.

The she-camel wandered the valley. She grazed. She drank on her day. The people drank on theirs.

But the proud chiefs could not stand it.

Every time they saw her, they saw the thing that proved Salih was telling the truth. Every time she drank, they had to wait. And their pride burned and burned.

So a group of the worst among them made a wicked plan. And one day... they went out... and they harmed her. They killed the she-camel of Allah.

The sign that had walked out of a mountain, the gentle animal who had never done a single thing to anybody, was gone.

And then they turned to Salih, still proud, and said: bring on whatever you were warning us about.

Salih's heart broke for them. Not for himself. For them.

He said: "Enjoy yourselves in your homes for three days. That is a promise that will not be broken."

Three days. Allah gave them three whole days, not to be frightened, but to think. Three days to say we were wrong. Three days to come back. Allah is so patient. He always leaves the door open.



The Ones Who Were Saved

But they did not come back.

And when the three days had passed... Allah's promise came true, exactly as He said it would.

The wrongdoers were seized, and their carved stone houses stood empty in the morning.

All those beautiful rooms cut into the mountain. All that clever work. Standing there in the desert, silent.

But listen, because this is the part that matters most.

Allah saved Salih. And Allah saved every single person who had believed with him.

The Qur'an says it plainly: We saved Salih and those who believed with him, by a mercy from Us.

The poor ones nobody listened to. The quiet ones the chiefs looked down on. Every single one of them, safe. Because Allah does not measure people the way people measure people.

That is the story of Prophet Salih, alayhi salaam. A man Allah sent to his own people, who prayed at the foot of a mountain until the rock opened and a camel walked out. Who asked his people for the simplest thing in the world, be kind, and take turns, and who was saved, along with everyone who believed, by the mercy of Allah.

And now... slowly... we leave the red rock valley behind... the carved doorways in the cliffs, the date palms, the wide desert sky... and we travel back home. To right here. Right now.

But carry Prophet Salih with you, wherever you go. Because his story leaves us two small, gentle things to hold on to.

The first: be kind to animals. Every creature Allah made belongs to Him. The way you treat a cat, a bird, a beetle on the path, Allah sees all of it.

And the second: whenever something good comes to you, a clever idea, a strong pair of hands, a beautiful thing you made, remember who gave it to you. Say alhamdulillah. That one little word is the whole difference between the people of Thamud... and the people who were saved.

So let us end with Prophet Salih's own words to his people. They mean... O my people, worship Allah; you have no god other than Him. Say them with me... slowly...

Yā qawmi-‘budū-llāha... mā lakum min ilāhin ghayruh.

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. In Prophet Salih's story, what walked out of the mountain?

- a. A she-camel
- b. A big ship
- c. A caravan

2. How did Prophet Salih's people make their homes?

- a. Carved into rock
- b. Built from bricks
- c. Built from boats

3. Who prayed until the rock opened?

- a. Prophet Salih
- b. Prophet Musa
- c. Prophet Nuh

4. In Prophet Salih's story, how was the water shared?

- a. Taking turns
- b. Chiefs drank first
- c. Everyone at once

5. In Prophet Salih's story, what did the she-camel give the town?

- a. Milk for everyone
- b. Nothing at all
- c. Golden rain

6. In Prophet Salih's story, how many days did Allah give?

- a. Three days
- b. Forty days
- c. Eleven days

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/salih

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