

# The story of the beginning

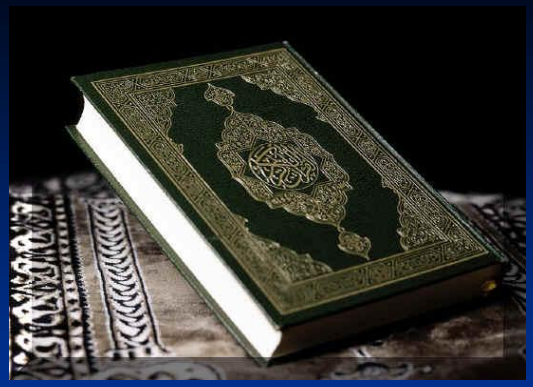
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# Topics

- Introduction
- About the Quran & Some Quran Recitation
- The Story of the Beginning & the beliefs it addresses
  - Monotheism
  - God's Plan for Man & Mans Relationship to/with God
  - The value & the duty of Man
  - The "Original Sin"
  - The "Fall of Man"
  - Repentance and the path for Salvation
- Classical Practices
  - Testimony, Prayers, Fasting, Charity, Pilgrimage
- Classical Beliefs
  - Allah, The Angles, The Holy Books, the Prophets, The Day of Judgment, Destiny
  - Q & A

# Al-Quran



- Al-Quran: Islam's Holy Book
- It's the literal word of God
- It was revealed to prophet Mohammad via angel Gibreel (Gabriel) over 23 years
  - *Mohammad was illiterate!*
- It's 114 Chapters, vary in length. (604 pages, 6,236 verses)
- It's in Arabic. There are translations in all different languages.
  - Translation is not a Quran!

## سورة الفاتحة

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم ۝١
الحمد لله رب العلمين ۝٢
الرحمن الرحيم ۝٣ ملك يوم الدين ۝٤
إياك نعبد وإياك نستعين ۝٥ اهدنا
الصراط المستقيم ۝٦ صراط الذين أنعمت
عليهم غير المغضوب عليهم
ولا الضالين ۝٧

## سورة البقرة

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
الم ۝١ ذلك الكتب لا ريب فيه هدى
للمتقين ۝٢ الذين يؤمنون بالغيب ويقيمون الصلوة
ومما رزقنهم ينفقون ۝٣ والذين يؤمنون بما أنزل
إليك وما أنزل من قبلك وبالأخرة هم يوقنون ۝٤
أولئك على هدى من ربهم وأولئك
هم المفلحون ۝٥

# The Opening




**Surat Al- Fatiha (Chapter 1, The Opening)**

**1.** In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Clement.

**2.** All Praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

**3.** The Beneficent, The Clement;

**4.** Master of the Day of Judgment.

**5.** You alone we worship, and you alone we seek for help.

**6.** Guide us to the straight path

**7.** The path of those upon whom you bestowed your favors; not the path of those upon whom your wrath is brought down, or those who went astray

# Surat Al Hadeed (Iron) Chapter 57

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Clement

1 سَبَّحَ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

1. All that is in the heavens and the earth glorify Allah. He is the Mighty, the Wise

2 لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالأَرْضِ يُحْيِي وَيُمِيتُ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

2. His is the Sovereignty of the heavens and the earth; He ordains life and death; and has power over all things.

3 هُوَ الأَوَّلُ وَالآخِرُ وَالظَّاهِرُ وَالْبَاطِنُ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

3. He is the First and the Last and the Outward and the Inward; and He is knower of all things.

# Surat Al Hadeed (Iron) Chapter 57

4 هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالأَرْضَ فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ ثُمَّ اسْتَوَى عَلَى الْعَرْشِ يَعْلَمُ مَا يَلِجُ فِي الأَرْضِ وَمَا يَخْرُجُ مِنْهَا وَمَا يَنْزِلُ مِنْ السَّمَاءِ وَمَا يَعْرُجُ فِيهَا وَهُوَ مَعَكُمْ أَيْنَ مَا كُنْتُمْ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ

4. He it is who created the heavens and the earth in six days and he mounted on the throne (in a way that befits his majesty). He knows all that enters the earth and all that emerges from it; all that comes down from the sky and all that ascends in it; and he is with you whosesoever you may be; And Allah is Seer of what you do.

5 لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالأَرْضِ وَإِلَى اللَّهِ تُرْجَعُ الأُمُورُ

5. His is the sovereignty of the heavens and the earth, and to Him will all things return

6 يُولِجُ اللَّيْلَ فِي النَّهَارِ وَيُولِجُ النَّهَارَ فِي اللَّيْلِ وَهُوَ عَلِيمٌ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُورِ

6. He causes the night to pass into the day, and the day to pass into the night. And he has knowledge of what is in the hearts

# Surat Al Hadeed (Iron) Chapter 57

آمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَأَنْفِقُوا مِمَّا جَعَلَكُمْ مُسْتَخْلَفِينَ فِيهِ فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَأَنْفَقُوا
7 لَهُمْ أَجْرٌ كَبِيرٌ

7. Believe in Allah and his Messenger, and give charity of which he has made you to inherit; for whoever of you believes and gives alms (charity) will be richly rewarded.

وَمَا لَكُمْ لا تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولُ يَدْعُوكُمْ لِتُؤْمِنُوا بِرَبِّكُمْ وَقَدْ أَخَذَ مِيثَاقَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ
8 مُؤْمِنِينَ

8. And what cause have you not to believe in Allah; when his Messenger calls you to have faith in your Lord; and he has already made a covenant with you, if you are true believers

هُوَ الَّذِي يُنَزِّلُ عَلَى عَبْدِهِ آيَاتٍ بَيِّنَاتٍ لِيُخْرِجَكُمْ مِنْ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ بِكُمْ
9 لَرَءُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ

9. He is who sends down clear revelations (signs) to his servant, so that he may lead you out of the darkness into the light; Allah is Compassionate and Merciful to you.

# Story of Adam in the Quran & the Bible

- Quran Stories are different from the Bible Stories
  - ~ same personalities, similar events but with significant differences … different meanings
  - ~ original meaning?
- Example:
  - ~ Story of Adam
  - ~ Noah
  - ~ Joseph

# The Story of Adam

- The story of the Creation of Adam in Judaism, Christianity and Islam

*The intent is not to minimize the meaning of the story – for it has many different meanings & wide different interpretations*

  - In Judaism:
    - The story represents the fall of man from High to Low
  - In Christianity:
    - Added special perspective in that the fall of man – with sinful life
    - Christianity theology regarding God

# Fall of Man – according to wikipedia

- In Abrahamic religion, the Fall of Man, the Story of the Fall, or simply, the Fall, refers to man's transition from a state of innocence to a state of knowing only dualities such as "good and bad" or "life and death". The cause of this Fall was disobedience to God. The result of it was that man was no longer to remain in the Garden of Eden, to avoid him from eating from the Tree of Life too and thus regain the immortality he had just lost.

- In the first book of the Jewish and Christian Bibles, Genesis, Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, are created by God in His own image from the soil of the earth, are given the breath of life, and becomes living souls. God places them in his Garden of Eden and makes only one rule — that they do not eat fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil (often symbolized in European art and literature as an apple tree). A serpent persuades Eve to eat fruit from the forbidden tree. Christians traditionally identify the serpent as Satan, while Muslims say it collaborated with Satan. Eve shares the fruit with Adam and immediately they come to a knowledge of shame for their own nakedness. God punishes them by expelling them from the Garden of Eden. God's punishment extends to Adam and Eve's descendants, who must strive, suffer, and die. Women, in particular, are cursed to suffer in childbirth. Men are cursed to labor.

- Unlike Jews and Muslims, Christians traditionally understand the Fall as degenerating the natural world and causing humans to be born into original sin. The condition of original sin is said to make humans unable to make themselves holy enough to attain eternal life. According to Christian tradition, only the unmerited forgiveness made possible by Jesus Christ's self-sacrifice can overcome original sin and bring people into eternal life.

# Adam story in Islam

- The story location in the Quran
  - Quran starts with Surat Alfatiha
    - Prayer and supplication for guidence
    - Surat al-Baqara – Respond to the supplication:
      - 1. Alif – Lam – Meem
      - 2. This is the book that has no doubt – in it is Guidance for those who are God Conscious.
      - Followed by Proclamation from God.

# Story of Adam

30 وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً قَالُوا أَتَجْعَلُ فِيهَا مَنْ يُفْسِدُ فِيهَا وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَاءَ وَنَحْنُ نُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِكَ وَنُقَدِّسُ لَكَ قَالَ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ مَا لا تَعْلَمُونَ

"Behold, your Lord said to the Angles, I will create a vicegerent (a representative) on earth. They said: will you place therein one who will make mischief (spread corruption) and shed blood? While we celebrate your praises and glorify your holy name? He said: I know what you do not know"

# Story of Adam

- Notes:
  - Adam was not created yet! And God intends to put him on Earth.
  - The journey of Man on earth is not punishment : it according to God's plan.
  - What we call as the "fall of man" is really God's Plan!

# Story of Adam

- A look at the questions:
  - "will you place therein one who will make mischief (spread corruption) and shed blood?"
  - Who is asking? What do we think of Angels?
  - Hard questions built in the Angels question:
    - Why create a creation that will suffer?
    - Why a wise God will do such thing?
  - The atheist questions?
    - If God is so merciful and compassionate: why he makes me suffer?
    - Why He did not create me as an angel?
    - Why He did not place me in Heaven & paradise already?
  - The Quran constantly shock you with such questions to make you think!

# Story of Adam

- "I know what you don't know"
  - Did God answer the question?
  - Only fools who do not understand the Quran think that God did not answer the question!
  - If the Quran did not answer this important question: why did it even state it?

# Story of Adam

31. وَعَلَّمَ آدَمَ الأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا ثُمَّ عَرَضَهُمْ عَلَى الْمَلائِكَةِ فَقَالَ أَنْبِئُونِي بِأَسْمَاءِ هَؤُلاء إِنْ كُنتُمْ صَادِقِينَ

31. And He taught Adam the names of all things. And then He placed them (the things) before the Angeles and said: Tell me their names – if what you said is true (if you are right)?

# Story of Adam

- Notes:
  - The new creation has the ability to be taught!
  - Throughout the Quran, God places extreme emphasis on this concept.
    - Over 800 times the word Knowledge and its derivatives are stated in the Quran
  - A gift of intelligence ~ that the Angels did not have.
  - To Name things: not just a language, not a parrot that repeats things but the ability to communicate, verbalize Symbols, concepts, ideas and communicate feelings
  - "if what you said is true (if you are right)?" – God is answering the question!

# Story of Adam

32. قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ لا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِلاَّ مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ

32. And they said: Glory to you, we have no knowledge except that you taught us. In truth it is you who are perfect in knowledge and wisdom

# Story of Adam

- Notes:
  - The angels admit that they lack the tools and the knowledge to "name" things and verbalize it.
  - The angles: we cannot do it!  We are limited –
  - "In truth it is you who are perfect in knowledge and wisdom:
  - The angles state: to do such things: that needs wisdom and Knowledge.

# Story of Adam

32. قَالَ يَا آدَمُ أَنْبِئْهُمْ بِأَسْمَائِهِمْ فَلَمَّا أَنْبَأَهُمْ بِأَسْمَائِهِمْ قَالَ أَلَمْ أَقُلْ لَكُمْ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ غَيْبَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالأَرْضِ وَأَعْلَمُ مَا تُبْدُونَ وَمَا كُنتُمْ تَكْتُمُونَ

32. And He said: O Adam, tell them their names. And he (Adam) told them their names.

And the Lord said: Did I not tell you that I know the secrets of the heavens and the earth and I know what you reveal and what you conceal

# Story of Adam

- Notes:
  - Is this not a partial response to the question?
  - Through out the Quran – one will be forced to dwell and think of such questions.
  - Verse after verse – God reveals him self and describe to us him self through his "Attributes"

# Names / Attributes of Allah

1. The Most Compassionate
2. The Merciful
3. The King
4. Most Holy
5. All Peaceful
6. The Granter of security
7. The Protector
8. The Mighty
9. The Compeller
10. The Majestic
11. The Creator
12. The Maker
13. The Shaper
14. The Forgiver
15. The One Who Subdues
16. The One Who Bestows
17. The Provider
18. The Opener
19. The All-Knowing
20. The Withholder
21. The Expander
22. The One Who Abases
23. The Exalter
24. The One Who Bestows Honor
25. The One Who Humiliates
26. The All Hearing
27. The All Seeing
28. The Judge
29. The Equitable
30. The Gentle

# Names / Attributes of Allah

31. The All-Aware
32. The Forbearing
33. The Incomparably Great
34. The Forgiving
35. The Appreciative
36. The Most High
37. The Most Great
38. The Preserver
39. The Sustainer
40. The One Who Reckons
41. The Majestic
42. The Generous
43. The Watchful
44. The Responsive
45. The All Embracing
46. The Wise
47. The Loving One
48. The Most Glorious
49. The One Who Resurrects
50. The Witness
51. The Truth
52. The Ultimate Trustee
53. The Most Strong
54. The Authoritative
55. The Protector
56. The Praiseworthy
57. The Appraiser
58. The Originator
59. The Restorer of life
60. The Giver of life
61. The Causer of death
62. The Ever Living
63. The Self Existing
64. The Self Sufficient
65. The Glorified
66. The Unique

# Names / Attributes of Allah

67. The One
68. The Eternal
69. The Able
70. The Powerful
71. The Expediter
72. The Delayer
73. The First
74. The Last
75. The Manifest
76. The Hidden
77. The Governor
78. The Most Exalted
79. The Source of Goodness
80. The Acceptance of Repentance
81. The Avenger
82. The Pardoner
83. The Most Kind
84. The Eternal Owner of Sovereignty
85. The Lord of Majesty and Honor
86. The Just
87. The Gatherer
88. The All Sufficient
89. The One Who Enriches
90. The One Who Prevents
91. The Afflicter
92. The One Who Benefits
93. The Light
94. The Guide
95. The Originator
96. The Ever Lasting
97. The Ultimate Inheritor
98. The Guide
99. The Patient

# Story of Adam

34. وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلاَّ إِبْلِيسَ أَبَى وَاسْتَكْبَرَ وَكَانَ مِنْ الْكَافِرِينَ

34. And your Lord said to the Angels: Bow down to Adam (in respect); and the Angels bowed down to Adam, except Iblis, he refused and was proud and he was among the rejecters.

# Story of Adam

- Notes:
  - The angels are now commanded to bow to Adam in respect.
  - Now, Adam with his intellect – the ability to recognize God is superior to Angles.
  - The angels follow God's Command – except Iblis.
  - Who is Iblis?
    - Satan – Shaytan – Lucifer
    - The Quran tells us that he was not created as an Angel – but created from "Fire". He was a "Jinn"
    - Much like fiery self, he has firey nature – Destructive consuming pride, envy and arrogance.
    - God warns Adam (and us) from following his whisper.
    - The Quran talks a lot about Iblis warning us that he will not stop to move us away from God's Path.

# Story of Adam

35. وَقُلْنَا يَا آدَمُ اسْكُنْ أَنْتَ وَزَوْجُكَ الْجَنَّةَ وَكُلا مِنْهَا رَغَداً حَيْثُ شِئْتُمَا وَلا تَقْرَبَا هَذِهِ الشَّجَرَةَ فَتَكُونَا مِنْ الظَّالِمِينَ

35. And we said: O Adam, dwell you and your spouse into the garden and eat freely thereof; but not come next to this tree – for you will be among the wrongdoers.

# Story of Adam

- Notes:
  - What Tree?
    - Arbitrary command
  - Adam is given Free Will and the tree represents a Moral Choice.
    - Adam can choose to disobey God – with God's Knowledge and Permission and according to God's plan!

# Story of Adam

36. فَأَزَلَّهُمَا الشَّيْطَانُ عَنْهَا فَأَخْرَجَهُمَا مِمَّا كَانَا فِيهِ وَقُلْنَا اهْبِطُوا بَعْضُكُمْ لِبَعْضٍ عَدُوٌّ وَلَكُمْ فِي الأَرْضِ مُسْتَقَرٌّ وَمَتَاعٌ إِلَى حِينٍ

36. But Iblis caused them to slip and expelled them from the state in which they were. And we said: get All of you down (all humanity and satanic influences) with enmity between you. On earth will be your dwelling place and provision for a time.

# Story of Adam

- How does Iblis come to us?
  - In Chapter 7 in the quran:
    - Iblis comes to Adam AND his wife from the same door –
    - The door of "knowledge" & the door of "perfection"
    - Iblis: If you disobey this "little" command, you will have more knowledge – you will be like an Angle! & you will always be obedient to God!
    - Isn't knowledge and obedience to God are desirable things?
      - Hint: Don't get desirable things – no matter what they are at the expense of disobeying God the All Mighty!

# Story of Adam

- "And we said: get All of you down (all humanity and satanic influences) with enmity between you. On earth will be your dwelling place and provision for a time."
- Is this a punishment? Or is it a realization to God's plan?
- It is NOT a punishment

# Story of Adam

- God is preparing Man *(to be vicegerent on earth)*
  - Teaching him
  - Developing him
  - Developing his intellectual skills
  - Gives Man Free Will and the ability to Choose and even to repel against God
  - Presented man with a Moral Choice, and once Adam and his wife makes the first error, it signals the start of the journey on earth.

# Story of Adam

37. فَتَلَقَّى آدَمُ مِنْ رَبِّهِ كَلِمَاتٍ فَتَابَ عَلَيْهِ إِنَّهُ هُوَ التَّوَّابُ الرَّحِيمُ

37. Then Adam received from his Lord certain words and his Lord turned to him in Mercy for he is All Forgiving, All Merciful.

# Story of Adam

- "Certain words"
  - Words of consolation, promise of Guidance, and promise of repentance.
- "And his Lord turned to him in Mercy"
  - Some Orientals: Quran miss the point of the story!!
  - The most significant difference to the bible
  - Asking such question comes only from cultural and religious bias
- God Knows Adam! He (the All knowing, the Wise) just created him.
- God Knows that Adam will error
- Error is a tool of teaching! Is it not?

# Story of Adam

38. قُلْنَا اهْبِطُوا مِنْهَا جَمِيعاً فَإِمَّا يَأْتِيَنَّكُمْ مِنِّي هُدًى فَمَنْ تَبِعَ هُدَايَ فَلا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ

38. And we said: Go down All of you from here, but surely there will come to you guidance from me; and whoever follows my Guidance, on them will be no fear nor shall they grieve.

# Story of Adam

39. وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَكَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا أُوْلَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ

39. But those who are rejecters (of God, Guidance) and give lie to our signs, they are the people of the fire – they shall abide therein.

# Conclusions of the Story of Adam

- God's Plan to create Adam on earth
  - Man is a creature of Intellect
  - Man is a creature of Choice
  - Man will error, and will feel pain, suffering, agony, and hardship

# The Purpose of Creation

- Read the Quran!

"In Time (God Makes an Oath!)

All Man is in Loss!

Except for those who are Amanoo (
Find Faith, Trust, Security) in God
and who do good, an teach Iman (faith, trust, security) and patience."

# The Purpose of Creation

- Believe
  - Know the creator
  - *Amanoo*: to find Faith, Security and Trust
- Do righteous deeds
- Teach Faith
- Teach Patience

# Summary

- The Original Sin
- The Fall of Man
- The path for Salvation
- The path of God
- The expiation of Sins
- The sacrifice

# Some Classical Practices

- Prayer
  - Prayer vs. Supplication
- Fasting
- Charity
- Pilgrimage
- Jihad

# Other Beliefs

- The Angels
- The Holy Books
- The Prophets
- The Day of Judgment

# Q&A