

The Story of the Boy and the King

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said:

“Among the people who came before you, there was a king who had a sorcerer. When that sorcerer became old, he said to the king:

‘I have become old, and my time is nearly over, so please send me a boy whom I can teach magic.’

So he sent him a boy, and the sorcerer taught him magic. Whenever the boy went to the sorcerer, he sat with a monk who was on the way, listened to his speech, and admired them.

So when he went to the sorcerer, he passed by the monk and sat with him; and on visiting the sorcerer, the latter would thrash him. So the boy complained about this to the monk. The monk said to him, ‘Whenever you are afraid of the sorcerer, say to him: “My people kept me busy.” And whenever you are afraid of your people, say to them: “The sorcerer kept me busy.”’

The boy carried on like that for some time. One day, a huge and terrible creature appeared on the road, blocking the way for the people. The boy said:

“Today I shall know whether the sorcerer is better or the monk is better.”

He took a stone and prayed:

“O Allah! If the deeds and actions of the monk are more pleasing to You than those of the sorcerer, then kill this creature so that the people can cross the road.”

He threw the stone, killing the creature. People were amazed and could pass by freely. The boy informed the monk about this incident. The monk said:

“O my son! Today you are better than I, and you have achieved what I see! You will be put to trial. If you are tested, do not reveal my identity.”

The boy began to heal people suffering from blindness, leprosy, and other diseases by Allah’s permission. A courtier of the king, who had become blind, heard about the boy. He brought gifts and said:

“All these gifts are for you if you cure me.”

The boy replied:

“I do not cure anyone; it is only Allah who cures. If you believe in Allah and pray to Him, He will cure you.”

The courtier believed, prayed, and Allah restored his sight.

When the courtier returned to the king, the king was astonished and asked who had restored his sight. The courtier declared his faith in Allah. Enraged, the king tortured him until he revealed the boy's identity.

The boy was summoned, and the king demanded he renounce his faith. The boy refused. The king attempted to kill him multiple times, but Allah saved him each time. Finally, the boy told the king:

“You will not be able to kill me unless you do as I instruct.”

He instructed the king to gather the people, tie him to a tree, and shoot an arrow at him to kill him. He told him to say:

“In the Name of Allah, the Lord of the boy,”

before shooting an arrow at him. The king did so, and the boy died.



Witnessing this, the people proclaimed:

“We believe in the Lord of the boy!”

Realizing his plan backfired, the king ordered trenches filled with fire to be dug. He commanded those who refused to renounce their faith to be thrown into the flames. A woman hesitated, but her infant spoke:

“Be patient, mother! For you are upon the truth.”

The People of the Ditch: This event is referenced in the Quran:

“Cursed were the People of the Ditch—of fire fed with fuel—when they sat by it, and they witnessed what they were doing against the believers. And they resented them not except because they believed in Allah, the Almighty, Worthy of all praise!”

(Al-Buruj 85:4-8)

Write in your Notebook

Q: In Surah Al Buruj, Allah swears by 4 things. What are they?

In Surah Al Buruj, Allah swears by four things: They are:

- He swears by the sky containing Al-Burooj
- Yawm Al-Qiyaamah
- Yawm Al-Jum’ah
- Yawm Arafah

These days are special because these are the times Muslims fulfill their duty to Allah. Allah witnesses their devotion and sacrifice and the believers are witnesses to their own actions as well. All four of these things have to do with time and witnessing. Allah is witness to everything.

What do trials teach us?

1. They teach us humility.
2. It separates the true believers from the hypocrites
3. It helps us to appreciate Allah’s blessings and mercy
4. It helps us to remember we are in need of Allah

What is Lawh e Mahfooz?

Lawh-e-Mahfooz (الْوَحُّ الْمَحْفُوظُ) refers to the Preserved Tablet—a record in which Allah has written everything that will happen, encompassing His eternal knowledge and decree. Qur’an itself is preserved in **al-Lawh al-Mahfooz**, emphasizing the absolute protection and unchangeable nature of Allah's Word.