

# MIFTAAH SEMINAR

## PROPHETIC HOMES



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### SESSION 1

#### Introduction

We live in a time of information overload, in a world that is in many regards "in shambles." Before the Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ prophethood, his natural instinct for generosity, love, and empathy drove him to moments of deep contemplation. He would climb a mountain and sit in reflection, observing the state of his people:

- The corruption within the society.
- The objectification of women.
- The prevalence of racism.
- Financial corruption.

Even in witnessing such societal issues, the Prophet ﷺ never ceased to embody kindness, especially within his family. As he said:

خَيْرُكُمْ خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِهِ وَأَنَا خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِي

*"The best of you are those who are best to their families, and I am the best to my family."*

The Prophet ﷺ established a principle for all believers:

- You are only as great in the sight of Allah (SWT) as you are with your family.

#### Reflection:

Imagine if tomorrow were your janazah. What would your spouse,

children, and family say about you? Who are you in the eyes of your family? This may reflect your standing with Allah (SWT). As part of our daily *wird* (spiritual routine), we must not only ask:

- Who am I in my *salah* and with the Book of Allah?
- Who am I in following the Sunnah of the Prophet ﷺ?
- But also:
- Who am I with the people Allah has made me responsible for?

The Prophet ﷺ said:

كُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ، وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ

*"Each of you is a shepherd, and each of you will be asked about those under your care."*

### Prophetic Homes: A Study of Responsibility

- Prophetic homes are not simply warm, fuzzy, or idealized concepts to make us feel better about our own family struggles. Rather, they are examples for us to reflect on and take responsibility for our families, no matter how broken or shattered the image may appear.
- Allah (SWT) places the responsibility on us to embrace, study, and work to rectify the state of our families. This is why we examine the lives of the prophets and their families.

### Adam (AS): A Model for Companionship

- There is a time in a person's life when they begin yearning for companionship and a home of their own. This phase often isolates individuals searching for a spouse, leaving them feeling incomplete. Yet, the story of Adam (AS) demonstrates that this yearning is deeply embedded in our fitrah (natural disposition) and is honored by Allah (SWT).

### Adam (AS) in Jannah:

Adam (AS) was created by Allah in a unique way and entered Jannah, a place described as:

“That which no eye has ever seen, no ear has ever heard, and no heart could ever imagine.”

- Despite being in Jannah, Adam (AS) longed for companionship. Allah (SWT) understood this inner need and created Hawa (AS) from him, so they could live in Jannah together.

This teaches us:

- Yearning for companionship is natural and blessed by Allah (SWT).
- It is not sufficient to tell individuals to "move on" or "feel complete" without partnership.

### Lessons from Adam and Hawa (AS): Sin and Redemption

- Adam (AS) and Hawa (AS) lived in Jannah with its countless blessings but were commanded by Allah (SWT) not to eat from one specific tree. However, they both succumbed to the temptation and ate from it.

Allah (SWT) shows us through this story:

- Families make mistakes.

### Lessons on Family Dynamics from the Stories of Prophets

#### The Spiritual Core of Families

- **Building Faith Together:**
  - Many engage in family planning and finances, but fewer prioritize discussions about Allah, the Qur'an, and the Prophet ﷺ within their homes.
  - **Key Example:** Adam (AS) and Hawa (AS) demonstrate the importance of spiritual partnership—yearning for Jannah together and turning to Allah after mistakes.

## Acknowledging and Healing Harm Within Families

- **Crises Within Prophetic Families:**

- Adam (AS) experienced murder within his own family, showing even Prophetic homes are not immune to harm.
- **Modern Relevance:** Addressing abuse (physical, emotional, mental, or verbal) within families is crucial; ignoring it perpetuates cycles of trauma.

- **Breaking Cycles of Harm:**

- The concept of "hurt people, hurt people": unchecked trauma leads to the victim becoming the perpetrator.
- **Example from the Qur'an:** The son of Adam (AS) acknowledges his wrongdoing, illustrating the power of owning mistakes to prevent perpetuating harm.

قَالَ رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِن لَّمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

*"Our Lord, we have wronged ourselves, and if You do not forgive us and have mercy upon us, we will surely be among the losers." (Surah Al-A'raf, 7:23)*

- **Lesson:** Seek Allah's forgiveness sincerely and take active steps to mend relationships.

## Sacrifice and Trust in Allah

- **Ibrahim (AS) and Hagar (AS):**

- Ibrahim (AS) demonstrates trusting Allah by leaving his wife and son in the barren valley of Makkah, trusting Allah for their care and protection.
- **Lesson for Parents:** Separations (e.g., sending children to college, study programs) are opportunities to strengthen trust in Allah's guidance. Trust Allah with our children and know He provides for and protects them better than we can.

- **Musa (AS) and His Mother:**

- The mother of Musa (AS) placed her child in a river, showing immense tawakkul.

- Despite her fear, Allah's wisdom prevailed, reuniting them later.
- **Modern Parallels:** Mothers in war-torn areas and challenging circumstances find solace in Allah's promise of protection.
- it perpetuates cycles of trauma.

### Resilience Amidst Oppression

- **Asiyah (RA) in Fir'awn's Home:**

- Despite living with one of the worst tyrants, Asiyah (RA) remained steadfast in faith, teaching resilience in hostile environments.

رَبِّ أَبِي لِي عِنْدَكَ بَيْتًا فِي الْجَنَّةِ وَنَجِّنِي مِنَ فِرْعَوْنَ وَعَمَلِهِ وَنَجِّنِي مِنَ الْقَوْمِ الظَّالِمِينَ

*"My Lord, build for me near You a house in Paradise and save me from Fir'awn and his deeds and save me from the wrongdoing people." (Surah At-Tahrim, 66:11)*

- **Lesson:** Faith can thrive even in the most challenging environments. Seek Allah's proximity, and do not let circumstances deter you from your deen. A spouse's disbelief or misguidance must not hinder one's relationship with Allah.

### Single Parenthood and Extraordinary Outcomes

- **Maryam (AS):**

- As a single mother, Maryam (AS) bore Isa (AS) amid societal judgment, relying on Allah for comfort and strength.

- **Key Takeaways:**

- Allah's reassurance is a source of strength for mothers during hardships.
- Single mothers have been the foundation for some of the greatest individuals in Islamic history.

- **The Gifts in Allah's Taking:**

- Even when Allah takes something from us, it is a form of divine giving.

- Examples like Maryam (AS) show how apparent loss can lead to unimaginable blessings.

أَنَّى لَكَ هَذَا قَالَتْ هُوَ مِنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَرْزُقُ مَنْ يَشَاءُ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ

*"He said, 'O Maryam, from where is this [coming] to you?' She said, 'It is from Allah. Indeed, Allah provides for whom He wills without account."*

(Surah Al-Imran, 3:37)

- **Lesson:** Allah provides in miraculous ways to those who rely on Him.
- **Her Vulnerability at Childbirth:**

- At her lowest point, Maryam (AS) expressed despair.

قَالَتْ يَلَيْتَنِي مِتُّ قَبْلَ هَذَا وَكُنْتُ نَسِيًّا مَّسِيًّا

*"She said, 'Oh, I wish I had died before this and was in oblivion, forgotten.'" (Surah Maryam, 19:23)*

- Allah comforted her through divine reassurance.

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَمُوا تَتَنَزَّلُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَّا تَخَافُوا وَلَا تَحْزَنُوا وَأَبْشِرُوا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنتُمْ تُوعَدُونَ

*"Our Lord is Allah," and then remain steadfast, the angels descend upon them, 'saying,' "Do not fear, nor grieve. Rather, rejoice in the good news of Paradise, which you have been promised". (Fussilat, 30).*

- **Lesson:** Allah supports and uplifts those enduring hardship, sending His mercy and guidance.

## The Concept of a Chosen Family

- **Musa (AS):**
  - While raised in Fir'awn's home, Musa (AS) built relationships with a family of faith, teaching the value of forming families through shared values, not just blood ties.
  - **Modern Reflection:** Family can emerge from unexpected places, such as communities, workplaces, or masjid.

**Key Lessons:**

Families in Islam are diverse: single mothers like Maryam (AS), faithful spouses like Asiyah (RA), or parents sacrificing for their children like Ibrahim (AS). These stories teach us to trust Allah, address harm within our homes, and embrace non-traditional family structures with faith and resilience.

**1. Spiritual Reflection in Family Life:**

- Discussing and practicing faith together fortifies family bonds.

**2. Breaking Harmful Cycles:**

- Acknowledging and rectifying harm within families prevents the perpetuation of trauma.

**3. Trust in Allah's Care:**

- Entrusting loved ones to Allah yields better outcomes than personal control.

**4. Resilience in Challenging Circumstances:**

- Faith can thrive even in the most difficult family dynamics.

**5. Embracing Unconventional Families:**

- Families may not fit societal ideals but can still achieve divine success.