

Prophet Haroon (as)

Prophet Haroon (Aaron as)

Haroon ibn Imran is a prophet and messenger of God and older brother of prophet Musa (**Moses**). Haroon along with his brother preached to the Israelites.

Quranic account

The Qur'an contains numerous references to Aaron, both by name and without name. It says that he was a descendant of Abraham, and makes clear that both he and Moses were sent together to warn Pharaoh about God's punishment. It further adds that Moses had earlier prayed to God to strengthen his ministry with Haroon, and that Haroon helped Moses. Haroon was very eloquent in matters of speech and discourse. The Qur'an adds that both Moses and Aaron were entrusted to establish homes for the Israelites in Egypt, and to convert those houses into places of worship for God.

The incident of the Golden Calf as it is narrated in the Qur'an paints Haroon in a positive light. The Qur'an says that Haroon was entrusted the leadership of the Israelite's while Moses was up Mount Sinai for a period of forty days. It adds that Haroon tried his best to stop the worship of the Golden Calf, which was built by a wicked man by the name of 'As-Samiri'. When Moses returned from Mount Sinai, he rebuked Aaron for allowing the worship of the calf, to which Aaron pleaded with Moses to not blame him when he had no role in its construction. The Qur'an then adds that Moses here lamented the sins of Israel, and said that he only had power over himself and Haroon.

Haroon is commemorated in the Qur'an as one who had "authority" and one who was "guided to the Right Path." It further adds that Aaron's memory was left for people who came after him, and he is blessed by God along with his brother. The Qur'an also says that people called 'Isa's mother Maryam (Mary) a "sister of Haroon." Muslim scholars debated as to who exactly this "Haroon" was in terms of his historical persona, with some saying that it was a reference to Aaron of the Exodus, and the term "sister" designating only a metaphorical or spiritual link between the two figures, all the more evident when Mary was a descendant of the priestly lineage of Aaron, while others held it to be another righteous man living at the time of Christ by the name of "Aaron." Most scholars have agreed to the former perspective, and have linked Mary spiritually with the actual sister of Aaron, her namesake Maryam, whom she resembled in many ways. The Qur'an also narrates that, centuries later, when the Tabut (Ark of the Covenant) returns to Israel, it will contain relics from the family of Moses and Haroon.

Death

Al-Tabari reports that Harun died of natural causes: "When they (Musa and Haroon) fell asleep, death overtook Haroon. When he was dead, the house was taken away, the tree disappeared, and the bed was raised to heaven." When Musa returned to the Israelites, without Haroon, they began to believe that Musa killed Haroon because he envied their love for Haroon. However, Musa replied: "He was my brother. Do you think that I would kill him?" As stated in the Shorter Encyclopaedia of Islam, Musa recited two rakahs to regain the faith of his followers. God answers Musa's prayers by making the

bed of Haroon descend from heaven to earth so that the Israelites could witness the truth that Haroon died of natural causes.

Tomb of Haroon



A 14th-century shrine built on top of the supposed grave of Aaron on Jabal Haroon near Petra, Jordan

According to one Islamic tradition, the tomb of Aaron is located on Jabal Haroon (**Mountain of Aaron**), near Petra in Jordan, with another tradition placing it in Sinai. 4,429.1 feet above sea-level, Jabal Haroon is the highest peak in the area and a place of great sanctity to the local people. A 14th-century Mamluk mosque stands there with its white dome visible from most areas in and around Petra.

Haroon during Prophet Muhammad's time

Muhammad speaks of Aaron in many of his sayings. In the event of the Mi'raj, his miraculous ascension through the heavens, Muhammad is said to have encountered Aaron in the fifth heaven. According to old scholars, including Ibn Hisham, Muhammad, in particular, mentioned the beauty of Aaron when he encountered him in heaven. Martin Lings, in his biographical of Prophet

Muhammad, speaks of Muhammad's wonderment at seeing fellow prophets in their heavenly glory:

“Of Joseph, Prophet Muhammad said that his face had the splendour of the moon at its fullness, and that he had been endowed with no less than half of all existing beauty. Yet this did not diminish Muhammad's wonderment at his brother, and he mentioned in particular the great beauty of Haroon.”