

Prophet Lut (as)

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Lut known as Lot in the Old Testament, is a prophet of God in the Qur'an. According to Islamic tradition, Lut was born to Haran and spent his younger years in Ur, later migrating to Canaan with his uncle Abraham. He was sent to the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah as a prophet, and was commanded to preach to their inhabitants on monotheism and the sinfulness of homosexuality lustful and violent acts.

Like the Biblical narrative, the Qur'an states that Lut's messages were ignored by the inhabitants of the cities, and Sodom and Gomorrah were subsequently destroyed. The destruction of the cities is traditionally presented as a warning against male rape and went on to be used as a warning against homosexual acts. While the Qur'an does not elaborate upon Lut's later life, Islam states that all prophets were examples of moral and spiritual righteousness.

Family

Abraham's father was Aazar, who is known in the Hebrew Bible as Terah. Abraham had two children, Isaac and Ismael, who both became prophets. Abraham's nephew is said to have been the prophet Lut (Lot), Abraham himself is said to have been a descendant of Noah through his son Shem.

Qur'anic narrative

The Qur'an states that one day, a group of angels visited Abraham as guests in the guise of men in order to inform him of the fact that his wife Sarah was pregnant with Isaac. While there, they also told him that they had been sent by God to the wicked people of Sodom and Gomorrah to destroy them with a shower of stones of clay. Lut and those who believed with him, were to be spared, but his wife was to die in the destruction, with the angels stating: "She is of those who lag behind." The Qur'an also draws upon Lot's wife as an example for the unbelievers, since she was married to a righteous man but refused to believe in his message and was, thus, condemned to the fire of hell.

The people of the twin cities transgressed against the bounds of God. According to the Qur'an, their sins included inhospitality and robbery, they hated strangers and robbed travellers, apart from other abuses and rape. It was their sin of sexual misconduct, which was seen as particularly shocking, with Lut strongly opposing the approach of men for sex instead of women. Lut told and tried to help them to abandon their sinful ways, but they ridiculed him and threatened to evict him from their cities. Lut prayed to God and begged to be saved from the consequences of their sinful acts.

Then three angels, disguised as handsome males, came to Lut as guests. He grieved for his guest, as he felt powerlessness to protect them from the people of the cities. The cities' residents becoming aware of the visitors, they demanded that Lot surrender his guests to them. Distressed and fearful that they would incur the wrath of God, he suggested lawful marriage to his daughters, and told the men of the cities that his daughters were pious and

purier alternatives to their unlawful wishes. But they were unrelenting and replied, "You know that we have no need for your daughters: you know very well what we desire!" referring to his male guests.

Ibn Kathir, Qurtubi and Tabari do not read 'daughters' to mean Lot's literal daughters. They argue that since a prophet is like a father to his nation, Lot was directing the evildoers to turn away from their sins and engage in a healthy and pious relationship with the daughters of the nation, i.e. women in general.

Homosexuality

All major schools of Islamic jurisprudence state that homosexual sex is a sin, based upon the story of Lot. Because the Qur'an states that Lot berated his people for sexually pursuing men, in addition to attempting to assault strangers, the incident is traditionally seen as demonstrating Islam's disapproval of both rape and homosexuality. These interpretations have sometimes widened to condemn homosexuality beyond the physical act, including psychological and social dispositions.

Monument

Many Muslims believe that Bani Na'im in Palestine houses the tomb of Lot in the center of the town. The tomb is located within a rectangular mosque with an inner court and minaret. The lintel of the mosque's northern gate is built from stones dating to the Byzantine era. Bani Na'im's association with

Lot predates Islam, as the works of the Catholic scholar Jerome in the 4th century CE state that the tomb is located in a town named Capharbaricha, which is likely the former name of Bani Na'im.

Tombs

Tradition holds that the tomb of his daughters is located on a nearby hill. To the southeast of Bani Na'im is a shrine dedicated to Lot, known as Maqam an-Nabi Yaqin (**Shrine of the Truthful Prophet**). Legend claims that Lot prayed at the site, and that the imprints of his feet are still visible in a rock there.