

## Fast 26

“And We sent no messenger before you (O Prophet) but We revealed to him that there is no God but Me, so serve Me. And they say: The Beneficent has taken to Himself a son. Glory be to Him! No, they are honoured servants — **they do not speak before He speaks, and according to His command they act.**” — Ch. 21, v. 25–27.

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*Notes:* According to the clearest teachings of the Quran, all prophets were sinless. Those who were appointed as prophets by God had themselves be free from the bondage of sin, and more than that, they had to possess high morals in order to fulfil the mission entrusted to them. They “do not speak before He speaks” means that they taught only what God revealed to them, and “according to His command they act” means that they obeyed God in all their actions and never disobeyed Him.

The Holy Quran also speaks of individual prophets, by name, in terms of the highest praise. On the other hand, the Bible contains several alleged incidents from the lives of well-known prophets which show them committing them grievous sins.

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“And **Noah** certainly called upon Us, and excellent Answerer of prayers are We! And We delivered him and his people from the great distress; and made his offspring the survivors, and granted him among the later generations (the salutation): peace be on Noah among the nations! **Thus do We reward the doers of good. Surely he was one of Our believing servants.**” — Ch. 37, v. 75–81.

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*Notes:* According to the Bible, Noah on one occasion “drank of the wine and was drunk” and lay naked in his tent; his “nakedness” was seen by one of his three sons (Genesis 9:20–27). Then, says the biblical account, after “Noah awoke from his wine” he cursed the descendants of that son because he saw his nakedness! The question arises: Which of them committed a sin, father or son?

This story is utterly rejected by the Quran, since it describes Noah in the above verses as a doer of good and a believing servant, and in another place it describes him and the prophet Lot as “two of Our righteous servants” (66:10).

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“And to Lot We gave wisdom and knowledge, and We delivered him from the town which committed wicked deeds. Surely they were an evil people, transgressors; and We admitted him to Our mercy; surely **he was from among the righteous.**” — Ch. 21, v. 74–75.

“But the answer of his people was only that they said: Drive out Lot’s followers from your town; surely **they are a people who would keep pure!**” — Ch. 27, v. 56.

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*Notes:* The Bible relates a most disgraceful story of depravity about the prophet Lot (Genesis, ch. 19), to the effect that his two daughters conspired to make him drunk and, while he would be in that state, to become pregnant from him without his conscious knowledge. The older daughter did this on the first day, and the younger daughter followed the next day. To quote: “Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father” (Genesis 19:36).

The Quran contradicts any such loathsome story by describing Lot as a man of wisdom and knowledge, who was one of the righteous. In the second passage above, the wicked opponents of Lot condemn his followers as wanting to remain pure. So, not only Lot, but even his followers were pure.

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“...And Solomon did not disbelieve, but the devils disbelieved, teaching people enchantment....” — Ch. 2, v. 102.

“She (the Queen of Sheba) said: My Lord, surely I have wronged myself, and I submit with Solomon to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.” — Ch. 27, v. 44.

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*Notes:* In the Bible, it is alleged regarding the great prophet and king of Israel Solomon that “his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God” (1 Kings 11:4) and that this made the Lord God angry with Solomon (1 Kings 11:9). The Quran says above in 2:102 that it was not Solomon who committed any act of unbelief, but it was the “devils”, evil-minded people, who committed such an act and attributed this deviation to him.

In 27:44 we learn at the end of the story of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba, as recounted in the Quran, that Solomon taught this Queen, who worshipped other gods, to acknowledge the One God and to submit to him. And he succeeded in convincing her. This contradicts any suggestion that he could have been misled by his own wives into worship of other gods.

We must remember that Noah, Lot and Solomon are among the most revered personalities of the Bible, and of the Jews and the Christians. The Prophet Muhammad had nothing to gain by exonerating them of these charges. On the contrary, he could have used the above alleged incidents to project himself as being a sinless prophet unlike them. In fact, Christian evangelists **do** use these stories to make the claim that everyone is sinful except Jesus. However, the Holy Prophet

Muhammad, being guided by God and following God's revelation to him instead of following low desires, declared the innocence of all earlier prophets, *despite the fact that these were revered figures of his own opponents.*

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### **Inspiring sayings**

Maulana Muhammad Ali said in a Friday *khutba*:

“When the same deep anxiety for the propagation of the Quran which made the heart of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad **restless**, is infused in the hearts of the whole Muslim community, that will be the day of the triumph of Islam.”

— *A Mighty Striving*, page 310.