



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Nahj al-Balagha

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Lesson: 10

Topic: Sermon #1 (Continuance): Adam's Garden

«نُتِمَّ أَسْكَنَ سُبْحَانَهُ آدَمَ دَاراً أَرْغَدَ فِيهَا عَيْشُهُ»

Allah made Prophet Adam inhabit a house where his life was pleasant.

- Imam عليه السلام didn't use the word *Jannah* (جَنَّة) for Adam's Garden. Instead, he used "dar," which means house. Why?

Different opinions about Adam's Garden:

1. Heavenly *Jannah* that the believers will go to after the Resurrection.
2. A worldly garden

- The word "house" in this sermon is nearer to the second opinion. It gives us the meaning that it was a temporary abode with the following characteristics:
 1. Security and safety
 2. Abundance of blessings

Adam's garden was not the heavenly garden because:

1. The heavenly garden is eternal (جَنَّةُ الْخُلْد), and being temporary is meaningless.
2. Satan has no access to the heavenly garden of Eden.
3. Hadith from Imam al-Sadiq عليه السلام that Adam's Garden was **worldly**.

- "Worldly" can mean: A garden somewhere on earth, or not on this planet but somewhere else in the universe.
- It should be high (really or metaphorically) wherever it was because the Quran says to descend from it.
- Some say Adam's Garden was the heavenly garden, as the apparent meanings of the Quran show it.



Answer to reasons for the first opinion:

1. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ entered the heavenly garden during his *ascension (miraj)* and then left it;
2. *Iblis* didn't enter paradise; according to some hadiths, he only went to the door.

Did Prophet Adam sin? Some religions (like Christianity) are based on the Original Sin.

Islam and Adam's Sin:

- Mainstream Sunni view: Adam committed a sin
- Mainstream Shia view: He didn't commit a sin

How does the Shia explain the verses saying Adam disobeyed God?

1. What Adam did was *tark al-awla* (abandoning the better choice). (The popular answer)
 - The Quran called "tark al-awla" a sin because if a high-ranking person leaves the better choice, it's symbolically (relative to one's status) a sin, not technically. E.g., leaving *salat al-layl* for a true believer. Adam (as) left Allah's advice.
2. It was all a show to teach humanity a lesson (that *Iblis* is your enemy) because from day one when Allah created Adam (as), He said: I'm placing a caliph **on the earth**. So, the plan was not to put him in paradise, as the story of Prophet Musa (as) indicates.
3. Prophet Adam knew he should go on the earth, but God put him in paradise to honor him and told him when to go was up to him. His time to leave will arrive as soon as he abandons His advice.

What is the proof that Adam (as) didn't commit a sin?

- When God accepts one's repentance, He usually should give back whatever He has taken; but He didn't return Adam to the heavens.

Some: The whole story of Adam is allegorical to teach us. The Quran talks about these stories as facts.

Opinions on how Adam got deceived?

Opinion 1: At that moment, he forgot.

a. Supports from the Quran:

«و لقد عَهدنا إلى بني آدمَ من قبل فَنَسِيَ و لم نجد له عَزما»



“Certainly, We had enjoined Adam earlier; but he forgot, and We did not find any resoluteness in him” (20:115)

Opinion 2: Adam and Eve never thought someone would take a false oath. And Satan took the oath.

Opinion 3: Adam didn't approach the tree that Allah had forbidden but a similar tree, so he defied the spirit of this command. So, that's how Iblis fooled Adam.

- The tree was a physical tree—the fruits: wheat, grapes, etc. The trees in heaven have multiple fruits.
- Some scholars: The tree represents jealousy.
- Hadith: The tree represented the knowledge of Muhammad and 'Al Muhammad. Adam's curiosity wanted to see what that knowledge was. Iblis used this to deceive him.

Duration of Adam's stay in that paradise:

- Sunnis: between 100 and 130 years
- Our hadiths: 6 hours (between noon to sunset)

The place where Adam descended on the earth:

- Most Sunni sources: Adam in India (modern-day Sri Lanka), Eve in Jeddah (Jeddah means grandmother), and reunited in *Arafa* in Arabia.
- Majority Shia: Adam landed on the hill of *Safa* (right by Masjid al-Haram). Mount Safa was named after Adam *Safiyy Allah*, and Eve landed on Mount *Marwah*, which comes from *Mar'a* (woman).
- Adam and Eve met in Mecca. Adam was the first one to build the *Ka'bah*. Adam and Eve didn't live in Mecca. He lived in Babylon. He frequently went to Mecca for Hajj.
- Adam brought down with him a heavenly stone called *the white stone*, an angel in the form of a stone to record what people do. Due to numerous sins people committed, it turned black and was called *the Black Stone*.
- Prophet Adam cried for many years (200 years according to hadiths) for not following the advice of Allah. Finally, Allah revealed to him the holy words.



- Amir al-Muminin عليه السلام in Nahj al-Balagha:

«ثُمَّ بَسَطَ اللَّهُ سُبْحَانَهُ لَهُ فِي تَوْبَتِهِ وَ لَقَّاهُ كَلِمَةً رَحْمَتِهِ...»

“Allah gave him the word of mercy”

The words of mercy Allah taught Prophet Adam were two statements:

Statement 1: «لا إله إلا أنت سبحانك و بحمدك، إني عملتُ سوءاً و ظلمتُ نفسي فَاغْفِرْ لِي إِنَّكَ خَيْرُ الْغَافِرِينَ»

Statement 2: «سأله بحقِّ مُحَمَّدٍ و عَلِيٍّ و فَاطِمَةَ و الْحُسَيْنَ و الْحُسَيْنَ الَّا تَبَتَّ عَلَيَّ»