

You Came Early

This is a story from a long, long time ago. And I mean a *long* time ago. It is from before your parents were born, before your grandparents, before there were airplanes or cars, before the Prophets Musa and 'Eesa...

So how far back can we go in our history? We can go all the way back to the first human being—Adam (peace be upon him).

When Allah first created Adam and breathed his soul into him, he sneezed. Adam said, "*Alhamdulillah!*" Allah said to him: "*Yar hamu ka rabbuk!*" which means "Your Lord has bestowed mercy on you!"

Then Allah sent Adam to the angels and he said *As salaamu 'alaykum* (peace be upon you) to them. The angels responded with *wa 'alaykum as salaam wa rahmatullah* (on you too the same and Allah's mercy). That is how Allah taught people to greet one another.

Allah then closed His Hands and asked Adam to choose one. Adam said, "I select the right hand and both the hands of my Lord are right and blessed."

Then Allah spread it and there was Adam and his generation. Adam said, "O Lord, who are these people?"

Allah told him that all of these people were his children.

Can you imagine how many millions and billions of people Adam must have seen? Out of all of those billions of faces, one of them shone particularly bright. Adam asked, "O Lord, who is this?"

Allah told him: "This is your son Dawood. His life span is written forty years."



Adam wanted this son of his to have a longer life, so he asked Allah to give him a longer life.

Allah said, "This is what I have written down for him."

Adam said, "Then I give him sixty years of my age."

"This is between you and him," Allah said. "Live in Paradise."

And so Adam lived in Paradise for a time. After a time, he went down to earth. Adam was counting down his age. Then the angel of death came to him.

Adam said: "You have come early. For me, one thousand years have been written." Adam had forgotten all about giving some of his life to his son Dawood!

The angel of death reminded him of what he had said to Allah, but Adam did not remember. From that day, Allah ordered writing down and making witnesses for pledges.



What was the first thing Adam (peace be upon him) said after Allah created him? _____

When Adam was shown all of his children, which child's face shone brightest? _____

At the end of the story, we learn that Allah ordered down writing down if you make a deal or a pact with someone. Why do you think this is important?

