

The story of Bula'am

Translated by Rasheed ibn Estes Barbee

Article taken and slightly adapted from: mtws.posthaven.com

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Student:

وَأَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ نَبَأَ الَّذِي آتَيْنَاهُ آيَاتِنَا فَانْسَلَخْنَا مِنْهَا فَأَتْبَعَهُ الشَّيْطَانُ فَكَانَ مِنَ الْعَاوِينَ

[And recite (O Muhammad) to them the story of him to whom We gave Our Aayaat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.), but he threw them away, so Shaytaan followed him up, and he became of those who went astray.]¹

Shaykh Saalih al-Fawzaan (حفظه الله)²: This man was a scholar from the children of Israaeel. ["Him to whom We gave Our Aayaat"]. He was a scholar from the children of Israaeel. And he was a person whose supplication was answered, because he knew the greatest Name. He knew Allaah's greatest Name, which if called upon with this name He will answer the supplication. He was a worshipper and he was a scholar, and he was a person whose supplication was answered. His name was Bu'laam; Bu'laam ibn Baa'ooraa'.

Thus Moosa (عليه السلام)³ and the children of Israaeel fought the military campaign during the battle for Baytul Maqdis to conquer it and take it from the hands of the pagans, the likes of the Canaanites and the Amalekites.

So the enemies who Moosa (عليه السلام) were fighting against came to Bu'laam, this scholar. They were afraid of the Muslims, they were afraid of Moosa (عليه السلام). They came to Bu'laam requesting that he supplicate to Allaah against Moosa (عليه السلام) and against the Muslims. They requested this from him because his supplication was accepted. At first he rejected their request. He refused and rejected them. Then they convinced him, perhaps giving him some wealth. At this point he supplicated against Moosa (عليه السلام). Thus Allaah (سبحانه)⁴ disgraced him and removed the blessing from him.

¹ سورة الأعراف - Soorah al A'raaf [7:175]

² (حفظه الله) May Allaah the Most High preserve him

³ (عليه السلام) ('alaihi-salaam) Peace be upon him

⁴ (سبحانه) (Subhanahu) The Exalted

The story of Bula'am

[And recite (O Muhammad) to them the story of him to whom We gave Our Aayaat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.), but he threw them away, so Shaytaan followed him up, and he became of those who went astray.]

وَلَوْ شِئْنَا لَرَفَعْنَاهُ بِهَا

[And had We willed, We would surely have elevated him therewith]

Meaning with the Aayaat.

وَلَكِنَّهُ أَخْلَدَ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ

[But he clung to the earth]

He did not want elevation and might (from Allaah)

أَخْلَدَ إِلَى الْأَرْضِ وَاتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ

[He clung to the earth and followed his own vain desire]

فَمَثَلُهُ كَمَثَلِ الْكَلْبِ إِنْ تَحْمِلَ عَلَيْهِ يَلْهَثُ أَوْ تَتْرُكُهُ يَلْهَثُ

[So his description is the description of a dog: if you drive him away, he lolls his tongue out, or if you leave him alone, he (still) lolls his tongue out.]

The dog always dangles its tongue out, whether it's in the shade or the sun, if it is riding or walking; it dangles its tongue out. Thus Allaah likens this man to a dog, the vilest of animals. And with Allaah refuge is sought.

Despite the fact that he was a scholar etc.; but when he threw away the Aayaat of Allaah, Allaah removed it from him. He threw away the Aayaat of Allaah and obeyed the pagans, and supplicated against the friends of Allaah; thus Allaah (سبحانه) punished him. Allaah punished him. This is proof that whoever obeys the disbelievers and assists and aids them against the Muslims is similar to Bul'aam; he is similar to Bul'aam ibn Baa'ooraa', he has thrown away the signs of Allaah.