*The Story of Lady Maryam*

*Ramadan – Ashton Central Mosque – 16/07/13*

***The Miracle Happens***

The story of Maryam as mentioned in surat Maryam starts with “And mention in the Book Maryam (Mary) as she retired from her family to an eastern place. So she took to herself a curtain apart from them; then We sent to her Our Spirit; (i.e., the Angle Jibrîl “Gabriel) so he took for himself the likeness of a mortal in perfect shape (Or: mold)” ( 19:16-17). Jibril appeared to her in the form of a human, not an angel; “”She said, “Surely I take refuge in The All-Merciful from you, in case you are pious”” (19:18). She sought refuge in The All-Merciful before asking him why he had come if he were pious.

**قَالَ إِنَّمَا أَنَا رَسُولُ رَبِّكِ لأهَبَ لَكِ غُلامًا زَكِيًّا**

, ““Surely I am only a Messenger of your Lord to bestow upon you a most cleansed youth”” (19:19). Look at the surprise! “She said, “However can I have a youth, and no mortal has touched me, neither have I been a prostitute?”” (19:20). Observe her manners;

**قَالَ كَذَلِكِ قَالَ رَبُّكِ هُوَ عَلَيَّ هَيِّنٌ وَلِنَجْعَلَهُ آيَةً لِلنَّاسِ وَرَحْمَةً مِنَّا وَكَانَ أَمْرًا مَقْضِيًّا**

“He said, “Thus (it will be). Your Lord has said, Simple is it for Me, and that We may make him a sign for mankind and a mercy from Us, and it is a Command decreed”” ( 19:21). Allah said that and it is Simple for Him, “Surely His Command, if He wills a thing, is only to say to it, “Be!” and it is” (36:82). And He will make him a sign for mankind, so Maryam conceived him. Look at the narration, “...who kept safe her private parts, (i.e., safeguarded) so We breathed in it of Our Spirit...” (66:12). Don’t ask how; leave it to Allah. Didn’t He breathe into Adam?

**فَإِذَا سَوَّيْتُهُ وَنَفَخْتُ فِيهِ مِنْ رُوحِي**

“So when I have moulded him and breathed into him of My Spirit...” (38:72).

Allah breathed into him so that he had legs, hands and eyes and the foetus was moving inside of her; All Grace be to The Creator! With a breath of His Spirit into Adam the universe began, with a breath into Maryam Isa was miraculously born out of her, and with a breath on the Day of Judgment the entire universe will fall apart; there is no god but Allah! All Extolment is to The Creator! Wasn’t each one of us a breath into his mother’s uterus?

**فَحَمَلَتْهُ**

 “So she conceived him...” (119:22). Imagine how she felt at this moment, Maryam the chaste and pure one, whom everyone symbolized for chastity, the worshipper, daughter of ‘Imran. She conceived him and has no one—her parents, Zakariya and Yahya are all dead and she is all alone. She carried him in her womb for nine months like any other woman, but she couldn’t face the people and didn’t know what to do. Picture her feelings of fear and worry; girls are probably most capable of that. “So she conceived him, then she retired with him to a remote place” (19:22). She left Jerusalem; where to? When she didn’t have any one. But she had Allah. If people abandon you, don’t scare. Know that you have nobody but Allah and go to Him.

The story continues with “Then the birth pangs made her come to the trunk of the palm-tree. She said, “Oh, would I had died before this and become a thing forgotten, completely forgotten!” (19:23). She is going to have a baby, all alone, next to a fruitless palm tree in a barren desert land. It’s a tough situation; do you feel her pains and loneliness? But Maryam , Allah is with you. Watch this tenderness and look at Allah’s Names, The Ultimate Trustee and The Ever-Affectionate, “Then (one) called out to her from beneath her...” (19:24). As soon as Isa was born, she heard him speak to her; he spoke as a baby in the cradle. And the first thing that was said to her,

**فَنَادَاهَا مِنْ تَحْتِهَا أَلا تَحْزَنِي قَدْ جَعَلَ رَبُّكِ تَحْتَكِ سَرِيًّا (٢٤)**

 “...“Do not grieve. Your Lord has already made beneath you a stream” (19:24). Look at Allah’s tenderness. Look at this emotion; he tells her not to grieve and to look beneath her—the barren, dry land has a rivulet! Your Lord made a stream flow. She was then told “...shake to you the trunk of the palm-tree (and) it will let fall ripe dates down on you, readily reaped” (19:25). She is asked to look above her, the palm tree now has dates; there is mercy from above and below.

**فَكُلِي وَاشْرَبِي وَقَرِّي عَيْنًا فَإِمَّا تَرَيِنَّ مِنَ الْبَشَرِ أَحَدًا فَقُولِي إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لِلرَّحْمَنِ صَوْمًا فَلَنْ أُكَلِّمَ الْيَوْمَ إِنْسِيًّا**

 “So eat and drink and comfort your eye, yet in case you ever definitely see any mortal, then say, “Surely I have vowed fasting to The All-Merciful, so I will never speak today to any human being” (19:26). By now, the idea that she represents Allah’s Omnipotence has materialized in Maryam’s mind.

Furthermore, Allah says what can be translated as “Then she came up with him to her people carrying him...” ( 19:27). She is the same one who earlier said “...“Oh, would I had died before this and become a thing forgotten, completely forgotten!”” (19:23). If she were another girl, she would have run away from the situation, but Maryam went to her people carrying him Isa , feeling like the carrier of a message. Look at her strength in going to them carrying him without being embarrassed—because she saw Allah’s signs and entrusted her soul to Allah (SWT). When she went up to her people the difficult conversation began: “Then she came up with him to her people carrying him. They said, “O Maryam, (Mary) indeed you have readily come with a fabricated thing. O sister of Harû‍n, (Aaron) in no way was your father a woeful person, and in no way was your mother a prostitute”” (19:27-28). Harun was famous for his worship, her father was a respectful person, and her mother was honourable. “So she pointed to him...” (19:29).

She pointed to him in her full strength, for he will answer them back. (Sometimes, we respond to accusations incorrectly; our response should practically come through another person). Maryam did not respond. Isa had to speak to her alone first so as not to surprise her by speaking in front of the people for the first time, like with Musa’s staff, which he casted on his own before doing so in front of Pharaoh. See how great the Qur’an is! When she pointed to him they understood that he would respond, not her; “They said, “How shall we speak to one who is (still) in the cradle, a young boy?”” (19:29). He goes on to defend his mother. If Allah loves you He will defend you, if anyone accuses you He will prove you innocent, and if anyone slanders you He will raise your status. “So she pointed to him. They said, “How shall we speak to one who is (still) in the cradle, a young boy?” He said, “Surely I am the bondman of Allah. He has brought me the Book and made me a Prophet” (19:29-30).

Imagine how shocked they were to hear him speak! And speak wisely too! Every word he said was recorded in the divine books, the first being “...I am the bondman of Allah...” (19:30); that clearly, not the son of Allah but a bondman of Allah . Look at the following verses where he speaks to them. So He said, “He said, “Surely I am the bondman of Allah. He has brought me the Book and made me a Prophet. And He has made me blessed wherever I may be, and He has enjoined upon me prayer and Zakat (The poor dues) as long as I am alive. And ever benign to my (female) parent; (Literally: She who gave birth to me) and He has not made me arrogant, wretched. And peace be upon me, the day I was born, and the day I die, and the day I am made to rise again alive.” That is Isa (Jesus) son of Maryam...” (19:30-34).

Look at the great surah and the Qur’an’s great words. It’s as if Allah is reassuring Maryam ,for she is worried about her son’s future. So the response came, “...He has brought me the Book and made me a Prophet” (19:30). Regarding his sustenance, “And He has made me blessed wherever I may be...” (19:31). Will he be a devout worshipper like herself? Yes: “...and He has enjoined upon me prayer and Zakat (The poor dues) as long as I am alive” ( 19:31). Will he believe the accusations aimed at her and that she did something prohibited? Again, he answers: “And ever benign to my (female) parent; (Literally: She who gave birth to me) and He has not made me arrogant, wretched” (19:32).

No, I won’t accuse you, mother. Every person undutiful to his mother is arrogant and wretched in this life and the hereafter. How about his death? Would Allah protect him? “And peace be upon me, the day I was born, and the day I die, and the day I am made to rise again alive” (19:33).

I won’t be killed mother; Allah will raise me up to Him. He is always referred to as “...Isa son of Maryam...” (19:34) so that you may remember Allah’s Omnipotence.

***The Wisdom Behind The Miracle***

Why did Allah do all this? What is the wisdom behind the birth of Isa without a father?

Humans did not see how they or Adam were created except that it is the greatest miracle of all and one which the entire universe was founded upon. It is the will of Allah that after Adam humans come to life by means of a relationship between a man and a woman. Thus, people came to think that they have babies on their own. Allah wanted to show them a sign to remind them of who The Creator is, and He chose the symbol of purity and chastity to embody this fact. Mankind needed to see this. Allah says what can be translated as “Surely the likeness of Isa (Jesus) in the Providence of Allah is as the likeness of Adam. He (Allah) created him of dust, thereafter He said to him, “Be!” so he is (i.e., he was)” (03:59).

***A Final Word:***

I would like to say something to all boys and girls: don’t make your mothers angry, all but your mother. Isa’s first word was, don’t be sad. Mothers are very dear to Allah; don’t be stubborn with your parents, especially your mother. Look at what he (Isa) told the people, “And ever benign to my (female) parent; (Literally: She who gave birth to me) and He has not made me arrogant, wretched” (19:32).

He is telling her that she matters to him the most and that he won’t be arrogant. If you are arrogant with your mother, you are arrogant with the whole world. If your mother is angry with you, you are wretched in life and in the hereafter. Please don’t make your mother cry because of you, for her tears may be worse than the sins you commit in a whole year. Don’t break your mother’s heart, kiss her hands today and ask for her satisfaction.

***Conclusion:***

Maryam lived by Isa’s side; she became tired and roamed the earth with him. Her life wasn’t stable and she didn’t have a permanent settlement, peaceful life or family; in addition, Isa was raised up to Allah. In spite of all of these difficulties, she learned a lot. Isn’t being the woman of the worlds’ enough? Isn’t it enough that she is one of paradise’s greatest women? Isn’t it enough that she is Isa’s mother? That she guided mankind to Allah’s Name, The Creator? That her son will return at the end of time to reform the earth and administer the truth? If you are suffering in your life, be Maryam-like.