



NEW MUSLIM
ACADEMY

The Life of King Solomon





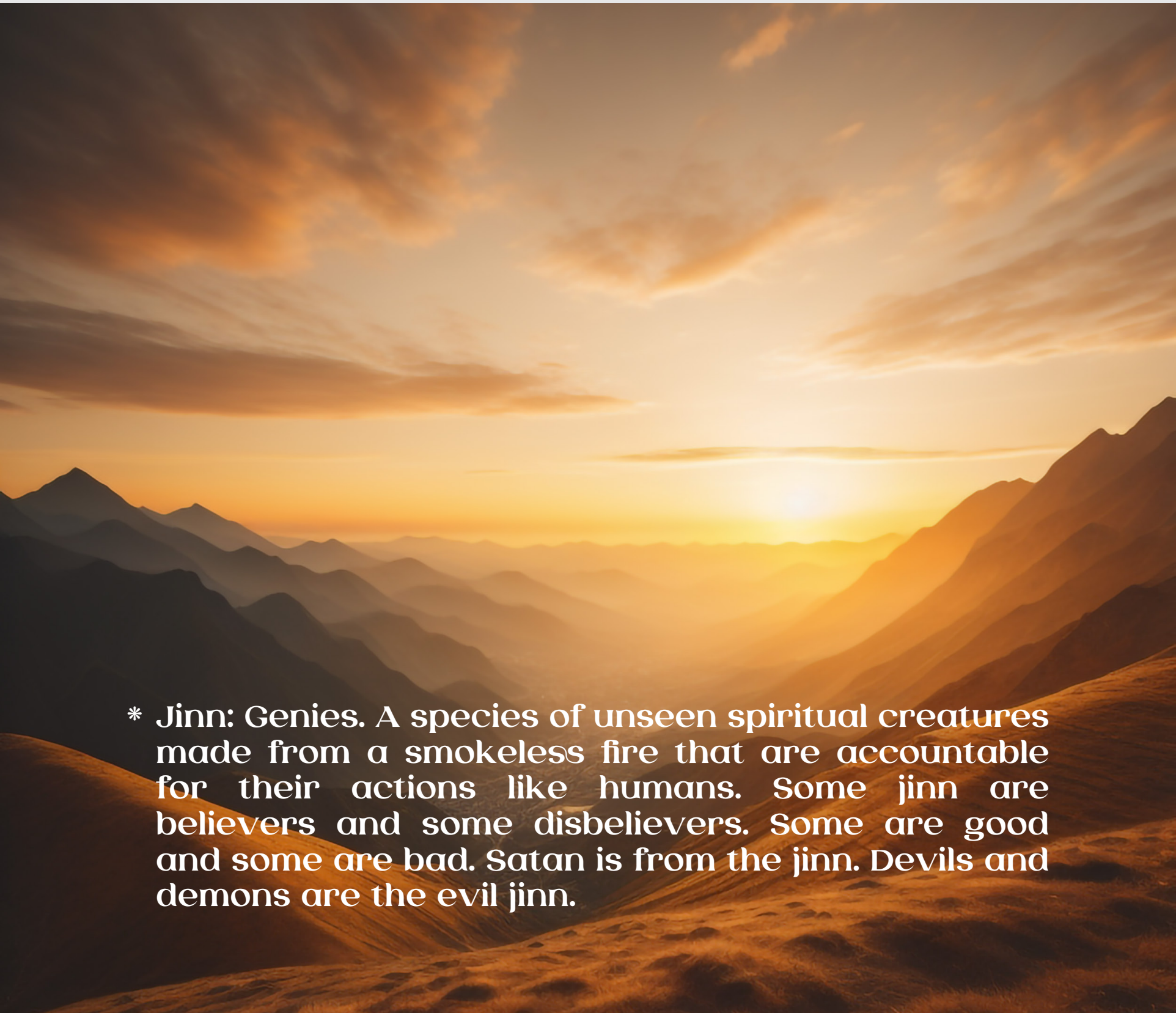
God sent several messengers to mankind throughout the ages. Some of these messengers were also kings in charge of their communities and large areas of land. This was the case with the father and son, David and Solomon. Solomon grew up in the household of David, himself a king and messenger of God. David was given the Written Documents and was known for his beautiful recitation of them. He was constantly engaged in the devotion of God through praising and glorifying Him. He was also a king and would judge the Children of Israel.

This is the household that Solomon grew up in. God says, “We gave knowledge to David and Solomon, and they both said, ‘Praise be to God, who has favoured us over many of His believing servants.’” [27:15] Solomon inherited the kingdom of his father. God bestowed the ministry upon him too so that he became a Messenger.





Solomon was given some unique miracles by God. He was able to command the wind, speak to the animals and command the jinn. His army was made up of humans, devils and birds as God says, “Solomon’s hosts of jinn, men, and birds were marshalled in ordered ranks before him.” [27:17] The jinn would do as he commanded, building and shaping as he wished. God says, “They made him whatever he wanted- palaces, statues, basins as large as water troughs, fixed cauldrons. We said, ‘Do deeds of gratitude, family of David, for few of my servants, are truly thankful.’” [34:13]

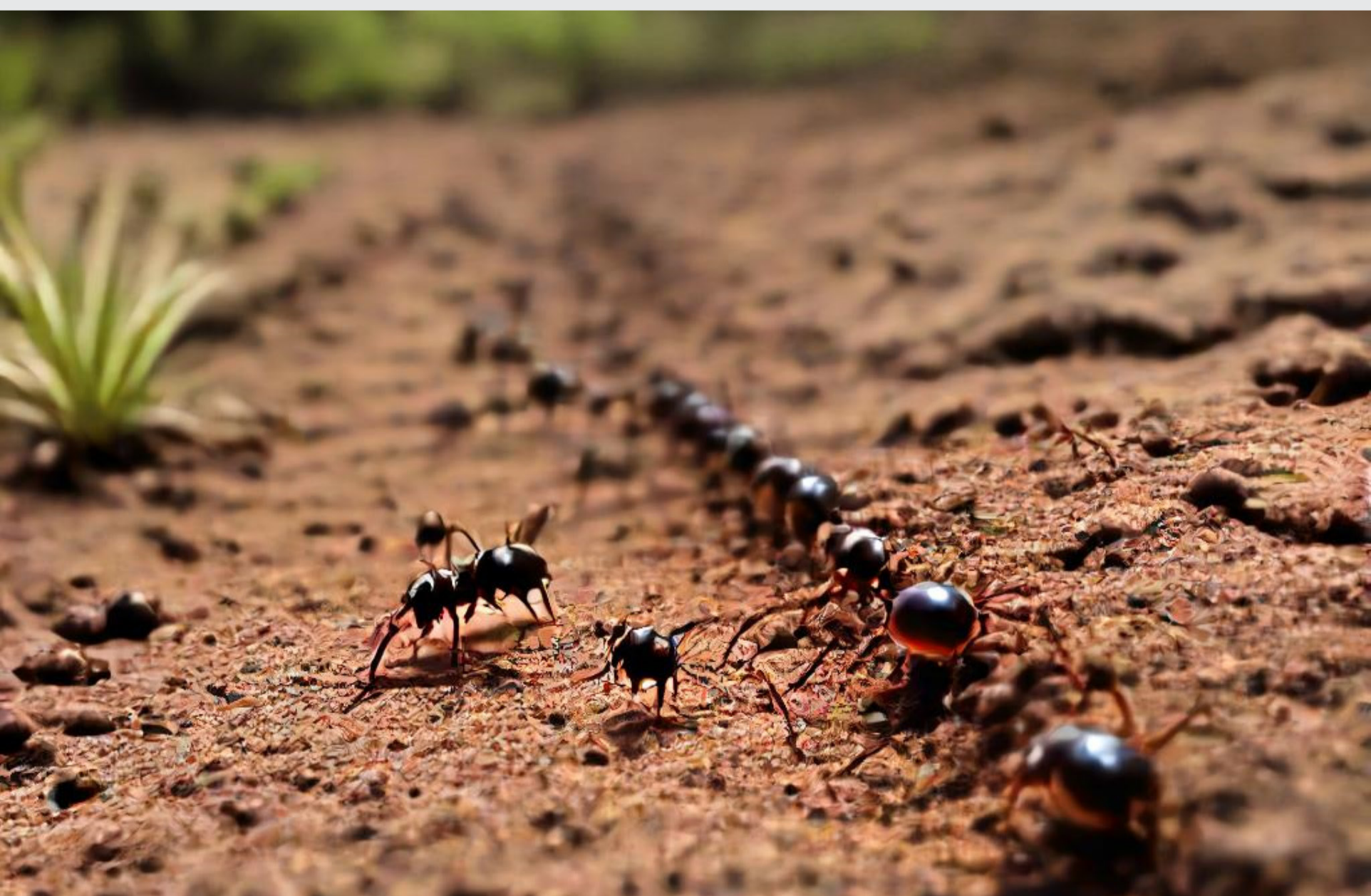
A landscape photograph of a sunset over a mountain range. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow across the sky and the mountains. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the mountains are silhouetted against the bright light. The overall scene is peaceful and majestic.

* **Jinn: Genies.** A species of unseen spiritual creatures made from a smokeless fire that are accountable for their actions like humans. Some jinn are believers and some disbelievers. Some are good and some are bad. Satan is from the jinn. Devils and demons are the evil jinn.



Solomon was a grateful servant of God and thanked him for the many blessings bestowed upon him and his family. On one occasion, God tells us that Solomon was travelling with his vast army and came across a colony of ants. One of the ants seeing the army approaching, warned her fellow ants and told them to seek shelter, lest Solomon and his army should trample them without realising. As Solomon could understand her speech, this brought a smile to his face, and he proceeded to thank God.

God says, "Solomon smiled broadly at her words and said, 'Lord, inspire me to be thankful for the blessings You have granted me and my parents, and to do good deeds that please You; admit me by Your grace into the ranks of Your righteous servants.'" [27:19]





Solomon used God's gifts and blessings to spread His message; the message of worshipping the one true God. God tells us in the Quran about the story of Queen Sheba. When Solomon realised that the queen and her people worshipped the sun instead of God, he called her to true faith and used God's gifts upon him to show her God's signs. She would eventually believe in God join Solomon and submit to God through the true faith of Islam.





Solomon was a just king and before that, as an advisor to his father, King David, was also fair and just. The Messenger Muhammad told us of an incident wherein two women were once out in the wilderness with their babies when a wolf came and ran off with one of the babies. Each woman claimed that it was the other one's baby that was taken. They took their dispute to King David. He ruled that the older woman was likely to be more trustworthy so ruled in her favour.

Upon leaving David's court, they came across Solomon. Solomon asked them as to what had brought them to the court. They relayed their story to him. Solomon said that he had a better judgement. He would bring a knife and cut the baby in two, so each of the women could have half of the baby. The younger woman immediately refused and said that she would not agree and that the older woman could have the baby. The older woman for her part, did not mind this suggestion. Solomon thereby realised that the younger woman was the true mother of the baby, as no mother would allow this to happen to her child, whereas the older woman did not mind so much. He thus ruled that the child belonged to the younger woman.



Another example of Solomon's knowledge and understanding is what is mentioned by God in the Quran. "Mention David and Solomon, when they gave judgement regarding the field into which sheep strayed by night and grazed. We witnessed their judgement and made Solomon understand the case [better], though We gave sound judgement and knowledge to both of them." [21:78-79]

There were two farmers. One had livestock and the other a field in which he grew food. The livestock strayed one night into the field of food and destroyed all the crops by grazing there. When this case was brought before David, he judged that it was only fair that the livestock be given over to the crop owner as repatriation.

When Solomon heard this, he suggested a different judgement to his father. He said that the crop field should be handed over to the livestock farmer until he restores it to its prior condition and that the crop owner should be given the livestock to benefit from until then.

Once the crop field is restored, the crop owner takes back his field and the livestock owner takes back his livestock. God praises the sound judgement of both David and Solomon but praises the better understanding of Solomon in this case.



These are the characteristics of the noble Messengers of God. They submit to God in worship, call to His obedience and devotion, and use God's favours and blessings to help others and to do good. Solomon died as God willed resting on his staff. The jinn in his army would claim to know the unseen. God showed them that they did not know the unseen, as Solomon was dead but standing upright leaning on his staff, and remained like this for some time without the jinn realising. It was only when the staff was eaten from within by a termite and became weak and broke, that they realised he had died. God says, "Then, when We decreed Solomon's death, nothing showed the jinn he was dead, but a creature of the earth eating at his staff: when he fell they realized- if they had known what was hidden they would not have continued their demeaning labour." [34:14]



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