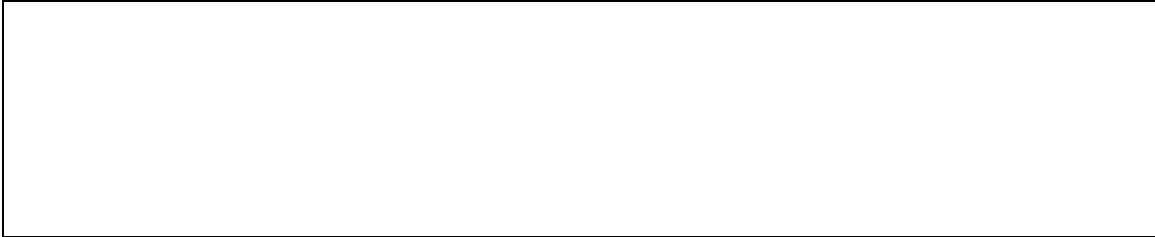


**An-Naml**  
**(27:15)**



We gave (in the past) knowledge to David and Solomon: And they both said: "Praise be to Allah, Who has favoured us above many of his servants who believe!"

**MUHAMMAD HUSAIN TABA TABAI (AR)**

*Indeed we bestowed knowledge upon Daud and Suleiman. They said: All praise is for god who has made us surpass many of His believing servants.*

Here knowledge has been mentioned to stress on His greatness as well as to mention the knowledge that Daud and Suleiman had. In verse 79 of Surah Anbiya the Book says, "We made Suleiman understand it, and to each one we gave wisdom and knowledge, and we made the mountains and the birds subservient to Daud."

The detail in the verse is about the command of wisdom over mountains, the birds and Iron . For Suleiman it was the command over humans as well as Jinns, beasts and birds. He had the prominence of ruling over all of them. They praised God because they wanted to express their gratefulness for the grace He had bestowed on them.

**MIR AHMED ALI (AR)**

Refer to the commentary of Anbiya: 78 to 82 for the wisdom given to Dawud and Sulayman.

"We gave knowledge to Dawud and Sulayman" refers to the general divine design and arrangement of giving knowledge and wisdom to messengers and prophets directly. As stated in the commentary of al Baqarah: 78 and Ali Imran: 48 all the divinely appointed representatives of Allah, prophets and Imams of the Ahlul-Bayt, never received knowledge or learned anything from any one save Allah, because of which they were the fountainheads of knowledge and wisdom.

It is stated in Minhaj al-Sadiqin that prophet Dawud had nineteen sons, and every one of them wanted to inherit his father's kingdom. Allah sent Dawud nine questions with answers and asked him to appoint the son who gives the correct answers as his successor.

Which is the nearest thing?  
Hereafter.

Which is the farthest thing?  
Time passed away

What phenomenon manifests love?  
Body with soul.

What phenomenon manifests dread?  
Body without soul.

Which things remain the same?  
Sky and earth.

Which things ever remain different?  
Day and night.

Which things are opposed to each other.  
Life and death.

What ends in - goodness?  
Patience and forbearance at the time of anger.

What ends in evil?  
Haste at the time of anger

None save Sulayman, the youngest son, gave the correct answers, so he was made the heir of Dawud.

Aqa Mahdi Puya says:

The law of inheritance stated in this verse is the law of the Lord, and no one can ever make changes in the laws of the Lord save Himself or the Holy Prophet under His command (Bani Israil : 77). Now refer to the commentary of Bani Israil: 26; Nahl: 90 and Maryam: 2 to 15 for the issue of Fadak. To deprive Bibi Fatimah of her rightful inheritance a false tradition (The prophets of Allah neither inherit nor leave inheritance) was quoted. The Holy Prophet was a law-giver, therefore he could never break any law made by Allah. He was the best exemplar of the laws and doctrines preached by him.

The Holy Prophet said:

"Whenever you hear a tradition attributed to me, compare it with the Quran, and, if there is no contradiction between the two, accept it, otherwise reject it outright."

Dawud who chose Sulayman, a prophet, to inherit his kingdom was also a prophet, therefore the tradition quoted to deprive Bibi Fatimah of her rightful inheritance was undoubtedly false. Please note that the superior most prophet of Allah, Muhammad al Mustafa, was granted all the wisdom, knowledge and authority over all created beings which was given to other prophets, in the highest degree by the most generous giver of all givers.

#### Anbiya 78-82

- It is reported that a flock of sheep, on account of the negligence of John the shepherd, got into the cultivated field of Elia by night and ate up the plants and fruits.
- Both of them came to prophet Dawud for equitable settlement.
- Dawud awarded Elia, the owner of the cultivated field, the flock of sheep belonging to John in compensation for the loss he suffered.
- Prophet Sulayman son of Dawud was a mere boy of eleven, but he thought of a better decision, where the penalty would better fit the offence.
  
- Sulayman's suggestion was that John should cultivate Elia's field and return it to Elia when it was fully restored to the condition before eaten up by his herd;
- and in the meantime Elia should take possession of John's sheep and use only their milk and wool and return them to John when he gave him back his field duly cultivated.
  
- This is because Allah is present every where and having witnessed the whole affair He inspired Sulayman to arrive at the true judgement.
- As prophets of Allah neither spoke nor acted except as directed by Allah both the decisions were announced as inspired by Allah.
- The decision of Dawud was based upon the law current at that time.
- Dawud had many sons.
- It was Allah's will that Sulayman should be given the prophethood.
  
- So after this case in which the young Sulayman was inspired to announce a new judgement, superseding the current law, Dawud, under Allah's command, made Sulayman his heir, and after Dawud, Sulayman was appointed by Allah as His prophet.

Aqa Mahdi Puya says:

As also said in Saba: 10, "O mountains! Sing the praises of Allah with him (Dawud), and you birds (also)"- the mountains and birds, animate and inanimate beings, are subservient to the chosen representatives of Allah.