

The Demystification of Scriptural Narratives, as Explained by Maulana Muhammad Ali

Saturday, December 10, 2022, 12:00 pm (EST) to 3:00 pm (EST) Presented by Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society Live on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=K1HCLwAW4-4 **The Lahore Ahmadiyya Islamic Society** continues its over 30-year tradition of hosting an annual symposium by offering a special virtual course this year. The program will focus on demystifying scriptural narratives that are often associated with fanciful stories, myths and legends. And this will be done by presenting interpretations of various stories from the Holy Quran as explained by Maulana Muhammad Ali.

The interpretations presented by Maulana Muhammad Ali are based on the Islamic spiritual tradition of illuminating the transcendental meaning of verses rather than a simple reading of the literal words. They offer a spiritual lesson that can then be practically applied to innumerable daily life circumstances, bringing the narratives to life in a pragmatic way instead of remaining mere tales of yore. And, by doing so, they unveil the true spirituality of the faith and serve as a foundation from which the Holy Quran in its entirety may be appreciated.

Such an approach to understanding scripture seems particularly important in contemporary times, when religious adherence is in decline and literal accounts of stories from scripture are often cited as a primary reason. The historical veracity, the scientific plausibility and even the morality of the lesson from the scriptural narratives are called into question, causing religion (the concept itself, regardless of which faith tradition) to be viewed as irrational and inconsistent with the knowledge and experience of the modern world. Hence the need, and ofttimes yearning, for an interpretation and understanding of scripture that both resonates with intellect and fosters spiritual growth.

Please join us as we study popular narratives from the Holy Quran, including: the story of Adam (and of creation), the story of Moses (and interaction with Al Khidr), the story of Jesus (his birth, childhood and wonders), the story of Solomon (his relation with wind, jinn, birds and the ant), the story of the Prophet Muhammad's *Isra* and *Miraj*, the story of Gog and Magog, and the depictions of heaven (paradise) and hell (punishment). We hope the presentations will afford lessons that will be appreciated by persons of all faiths and no faith alike, and will provide a valuable lens through which the Quran may be read and the conception of religion understood.

We look forward to you joining us for the program!