



QURAN MENTOR

Maryam (Peace Be Upon Her)

A Life of Purity in the Qur'an

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A Clear Example of Faith

Maryam (Mary), peace be upon her, stands as one of the Qur'an's most profound examples of faith, chastity, truthfulness, and patience.

Reading This Presentation

This document strictly separates text from tafsir. The Qur'anic revelation is presented first, distinctly separated from classical interpretation and reflection. Statements not established by the Qur'an or authentic hadith have been omitted.



Who Is Maryam?

Maryam bint 'Imran, from the family of 'Imran. She is the only woman to have an entire Qur'anic surah named after her. The Qur'an calls her a "woman of truth" and "devoutly obedient."

"O Maryam, Allah has chosen you, purified you, and chosen you above the women of the worlds." [Qur'an 3:42]

Theological Clarification

Classical exegetes explain "chosen above the women of the worlds" as referring to the women of her time. In Islamic belief, Maryam is an honored servant of Allah. She is deeply revered, but not worshipped or invoked.



A Beginning Rooted in Worship

- **The Vow:** Her mother dedicated the child in her womb entirely to Allah, seeking protection for her and her descendants from Satan.
- **The Sanctuary:** Allah accepted her graciously and placed her in the care of Prophet Zakariyya.

"Whenever Zakariyya entered upon her in the sanctuary, he found provision with her... She said, 'It is from Allah.'" [Qur'an 3:37]

The Qur'an does not specify the exact type of food or provision Zakariyya found. Classical tafsir connects her mother's vow with dedicated service in the sanctuary.



The Glad Tidings & Conception

The angels bring news of 'Isa (Jesus), calling him "a word from Him"—meaning he was created by Allah's command ("Be"), just as Adam was created from dust.

Maryam withdrew from her people. Allah sent His Spirit (identified by exegetes as Jibril), who appeared before her.

"She said, 'I seek refuge in the Most Merciful from you, if you are God-fearing.'" [Qur'an 19:18]

The Qur'an explicitly affirms her chastity. "Our Spirit" does not mean a part of Allah entered her; it denotes a miraculous creation without a father. The breathing occurred through Jibril.



The Withdrawal:
Maryam withdraws to
a distant place to bear
the trial alone.

The Human Anguish:
Driven to the trunk of a
palm tree by extreme
labor pains, she wishes
to be "something
completely forgotten."
[Qur'an 19:23]



**The Divine
Reassurance:** A voice
from below comforts
her, revealing a stream
placed beneath her.
(Exegetes differ on
whether the voice was
Jibril or the infant 'Isa).

Reliance and Effort

She is commanded to "Shake the trunk of the palm tree" for fresh dates, combining divine reliance with practical action, and to take a vow of fasting from speech.



Returning to Her People

She returns carrying her child. The people confront her with harsh accusations: "O sister of Aaron! Your father was not an evil man, nor was your mother unchaste."
[Qur'an 19:28]

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) explained that earlier peoples used the names of past righteous figures; she was not the literal sister of Moses's brother.



The Vindication

Bound by her vow of silence, Maryam simply points to the infant. The infant speaks by Allah's permission, delivering a miraculous defense.

"He said, 'I am the servant of Allah. He has given me the Scripture and made me a prophet.'" [Qur'an 19:30]





Exceptional Rank in the Sunnah

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) stated: *"Many men attained perfection, while among women Maryam bint 'Imran and Asiyah, the wife of Pharaoh, attained it."*

[Authentic Hadith]

Great Honor Without Exaggeration

This rigorously authenticated narration confirms her exceptional rank. However, this honoring remains strictly within the bounds of servitude to Allah. She possesses no independent knowledge of the unseen, and she is not invoked or worshipped.

Enduring Lessons from Her Story



Good Beginnings

Sincere intentions, prayer, and a righteous environment are fundamental to upbringing.



True Chastity

Chastity is both an inward spiritual commitment and outward conduct. The Qur'an explicitly praises her for guarding it.



Reliance + Effort

Divine reassurance does not cancel practical effort. She received a miracle but was still commanded to physically shake the palm tree.



Divine Vindication

Not every accusation requires a prolonged argument. Obedience and silence sometimes bring vindication beyond human capability.



The Qur'anic Position

Denial

Worldviews that rule out miracles in advance reject the miraculous conception.

Islam teaches that reason is used to understand revelation, not nullify Allah's power.

Affirms the miraculous conception while asserting the absolute humanity and profound servitude of both Maryam and 'Isa to Allah.

"It is not for Allah to take a son. Glory be to Him."
[Qur'an 19:35]

Exaggeration

Traditions that divinize 'Isa or attribute a son to Allah.



An Eternal Example

Maryam's story reminds us that severe trials do not indicate a loss of rank before Allah. She is loved, respected, and remembered as an eternal Qur'anic example of faith, obedience, purity, and steadfastness.