

Inspector Rex's History Snippet #8

The Queen in the Quran

In the Quran, the queen is known as Bilqis and rules over the mighty kingdom of Sheba. In this version of the story, as in the Bible, Solomon (given as Sulayman) is given the gift of the speech of birds, animals, and the spiritual entities known as jinn (genies). He assembles his hosts one day to inspect them but does not find the hoopoe bird among the company. Solomon says:

How is it with me that I do not see the hoopoe? Or is he among the absent? Assuredly I will chastise him with a terrible chastisement, or I will slaughter him, unless he bring me a clear authority [provide a good excuse]. (Sura 27:20)

The hoopoe bird appears and tells Solomon that he has been flying far and came to the land of Sheba where, he says, "I found a woman ruling over them and she has been given of everything and she possesses a mighty throne" (Sura 27:20). The bird then goes on to say how the people of Sheba worship the sun, not the god of Solomon, Allah, and how Satan has led them astray so that, although they have a great kingdom, they "are not guided, so that they prostrate not themselves to God" (Sura 27:25). Solomon forgives the bird his earlier absence and sends him with a letter to the queen, inviting her to visit his kingdom. (Continue this fascinating story of the Queen of Sheba - with acknowledgment to: https://www.ancient.eu/Queen_of_Sheba/)

Comment by Inspector Rex

Note that Solomon is Sulayman in the Quran, which in turn leads to the Ottoman Emperor Suleiman the Magnificent, who besieged Vienna in 1529. And of late we have the Iranian General Qasem Soleimani killed by the Americans - all derivations from Solomon son of King David in the Bible. The word *Sura* means *Chapter* in the Quran.