

the stories that Allah has told him about previous nations, and the Prophets and their followers and enemies; if Allah did not tell him about that, he would have no knowledge of it; in fact there was no one among his people who had any knowledge of these matters. This indicates that he is indeed the Messenger of Allah and His true Prophet (ﷺ), whom He sent with truth and with the religion of truth, so that it might prevail over all religions, even if the polytheists dislike that.

This story contains signs and wonders that serve as a reminder to people of understanding. They include the following:

- For the decision-makers to be united and to examine different options before choosing the best and acting upon it is the greatest means of advancing and attaining their goals, as happened in the case of these chiefs when they consulted their Prophet about appointing a king whom they could rally behind and bring their scattered community together, and they would obey him.
- The more the truth is challenged and specious arguments are produced against it, the clearer and more distinct it becomes and the more certainty can be attained thereby, as happened in the case of these people when they objected to the appointment of Tâloot as their king. They were given answers by means of which they became convinced and all doubts and specious arguments were dispelled.
- Knowledge and insight combined with the power to implement decisions are two qualities which together lead to perfect performance in positions of authority. However, lacking one or both of them will damage a leader's performance.
- Relying on oneself is a cause of failure and being forsaken by Allah, whereas seeking the help of Allah with patience and turning to Him is a cause of victory. The former is reflected in their words to their Prophet: «How could we refuse to fight in the cause of Allah, when we have been turned out of our homes and separated from our children?» (2: 246); it was as if that was