

MIFTAAH SEMINAR

FROM PALACE TO PROPHECY: MUSA AS



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Why the Stories of Prophets Are Revealed

- Musa (AS) is mentioned more than 136 times in the Quran, with his story spanning over 30 surahs—more than any other prophet.
- **Purpose of Stories in the Quran:**
 - The Quran's focus on Prophet Musa (AS) prompts the question: why does Allah highlight the stories of various Prophets to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the greatest of humanity?
- **Why Does Allah Reveal These Stories?**
 - **Two Main Reasons:**
 1. **To Teach Leadership Through Followership:**
 - Allah teaches that true leadership stems from first being a follower. Even the greatest human, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, was guided to follow the example of past Prophets.
 - A leader must know how to be guided, corrected, and humbled before they can guide others effectively.
 - Quranic Reference:

وَجَعَلْنَا مِنْهُمْ أَيْمَةً يَهْتَدُونَ بِأَمْرِنَا

"We raised from among them leaders, guiding by Our command." (Al-Sajdah, 32:24)

- **Examples of Lessons for Leadership:**

- Musa (AS) dealt with a disobedient nation.
- Yusuf (AS) endured betrayal with patience.
- Ayub (AS) remained steadfast through severe trials.

- **Takeaway:**

- A leader must know how to be guided, corrected, and humbled before they can guide others effectively.

2. Consolation and Guidance in Hardship

- Prophet Muhammad ﷺ faced unparalleled hardships as the final messenger:
 - Orphaned as a child, without parental guidance or mentorship.
 - Endured emotional and physical trials as the most-tested human being.
- The stories of prophets reassured him that he was not alone:
 - Musa (AS): Orphaned, exiled, and burdened with prophethood.
 - Adam (AS): Experienced the grief of being removed from Jannah.
- **Relevance to Us:**
 - These stories are not just for the Prophet (ﷺ); they serve as guidance for humanity.
 - They remind us that challenges are universal, and we can draw strength from the resilience of past prophets.

Introduction

Why Is Musa (AS) Mentioned Most in the Quran?

- **Significant Similarities with Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:**
 - Both born as orphans and honored with prophethood.
 - Both exiled from their lands: Musa (AS) fled Egypt; the Prophet ﷺ forced to leave Mecca to Medina.

- Waraqa ibn Nawfal, when hearing of the Prophet's experience, linked it to Musa (AS), foretelling the Prophet's exile.
- Both returned to their lands victoriously: Musa (AS) returned to Egypt; the Prophet ﷺ to Mecca.
- Similarities in their **Ummahs**:
 - Lessons from Bani Israel's flaws, habits, and mistakes are relevant to the Muslim Ummah.
 - Unlike other Prophets, the Quran only discusses Bani Israel as a nation in detail to serve as a warning and guide for the Muslim Ummah.
- **Diverse Challenges of Musa (AS):**
 - His story addresses a spectrum of challenges: family, enemies, his own people, poverty, isolation, and betrayal.
 - These challenges resonate with the Prophet's ﷺ. He dealt with a wide range of trials such as: hostility from family, persecution by enemies, betrayal and disobedience from his followers; making Musa (AS) a relatable figure for him and the Ummah.
- **The Spread of His Story in the Quran:**
 - Unlike Yusuf (AS) or Isa (AS), whose stories are more contained, Musa (AS)'s story is scattered across the Quran due to its comprehensive lessons on resilience, leadership, and faith.

Core Surahs and Timeline Approach

- Main sources: **Surah Al-Qasas, Surah Ash-Shu'ara, Surah Taha**, with mentions in **Surah Al-Anbiya**.
- The timeline mirrors "ease after hardship":
 - **Four Key Challenges:**
 1. His birth amidst Pharaoh's decree to kill newborn males.
 2. Being cast into the river as a toddler.
 3. Raised in Pharaoh's palace, the home of his enemy.

4. Becoming a fugitive after unintentionally killing a man.
 - **Four Key Triumphs:**
 1. Blessed with a supportive family.
 2. Honored with prophethood.
 3. Victory over the magicians, leading to their belief in Allah.
 4. Defeating Pharaoh's army at the Red Sea.

The Birth of Musa (AS)

The Context of Firoun's Tyranny

إِنَّ فِرْعَوْنَ عَلَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَجَعَلَ أَهْلَهَا شِيَعًا يَسْتَضِعُّ طَائِفَةً مِّنْهُمْ

"Indeed, Firoun exalted himself in the land and divided its people into factions, oppressing a group among them..." (Al-Qasas, Ayah 4)

- Firoun's arrogance stemmed from a dream interpreted by a fortune-teller or sorcerer.
 - He was warned that a boy from Bani Israel would rise to overthrow him.
 - This fear consumed Firoun, showcasing his obsession with power.
- **Key Reflection:** When blessings are disconnected from gratitude to Allah, they can lead to destructive arrogance.
 - Example: Firoun's fear of losing power made him act irrationally.
 - A believer should remember that blessings come from Allah and remain content even in trials (e.g., Ayub AS).

Firoun's Oppression of Bani Israel

- **Creation of Divisions:**
 - Firoun divided the people into factions, sowing discord to maintain control.
 - Lesson: Oppressors exploit divisions to weaken unity and justify their actions.
- **Mass Infanticide:**

- Firoun ordered the killing of male infants in Bani Israel.
- Numbers in narrations:
 - Some say 10,000 children were slaughtered.
 - Others mention 60,000 children over two waves of killings.
- Girls were spared for exploitation, not mercy, as Firoun misused them for his benefit.
- **Reflection on Oppressors:**
 - Oppressors lack genuine kindness; their actions are fueled by arrogance and self-interest.

إِنَّهُ كَانَ مِنَ الْمُفْسِدِينَ

"Indeed, he was among the corrupters. (Al-Qasas, Ayah 77)

Allah's Decree Overpowers Firoun's Plans

- Hadith of the Prophet ﷺ:
- *"If all of humanity gathered to benefit you, they could not do so except by what Allah has decreed..."*
 - Firoun's efforts to prevent Musa's birth were futile.
 - **Lesson:** Trust in Allah's plan, even when odds seem insurmountable.
- **Story of Musa's Birth:**
 - Allah destined Musa (AS) to be born despite Firoun's measures.
 - **Reflection:** Challenges are part of Allah's plan to demonstrate His support (nusra).
 - Example: The Battle of Badr – victory required effort and reliance on Allah.

The Command to Musa's Mother

- Allah's Revelation to Musa's Mother:

...وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ أُمِّ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَرْضِعِيهِ

"We inspired the mother of Moses: 'Nurse him...'" (Al-Qasas, 7)

- Allah instructed her to nurse Musa and, if threatened, place him in the river.

- **Reflection:** Effort (feeding) and reliance on Allah (placing in the river) go hand in hand.
 - **Surah Al-Fatiha:** “إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ” – Worship and reliance on Allah.
- **The Promise of Return:**

إِنَّا رَادُّوهُ إِلَيْكَ

"We will return him to you." (Al-Qasas, 7)

 - Assurance from Allah that Musa would be reunited with his mother.
 - **Lesson:** Allah replaces what is lost for His sake with something better.

Emotions of Musa's Mother

1. Fear and Grief:

- “وَلَا تَخَافِي وَلَا تَحْزَنِي” ("Do not fear and do not grieve.")
 - **Fear (خوف):** Concern for oneself in the present.
 - **Grief (حزن):** Sadness over a loved one and worry for the future.

2. Differences Between Fear and Grief:

- Fear is external and immediate; grief is internal and about the future.
- Allah addressed both emotions, ensuring her of Musa's safety and eventual return.

Allah's Support Through Difficulties

وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ أُمِّ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَرْضِعِيهِ ۖ فَإِذَا خِفْتِ عَلَيْهِ فَأَلْقِيهِ فِي الْيَمِّ وَلَا تَخَافِي وَلَا تَحْزَنِي ۗ إِنَّا رَادُّوهُ إِلَيْكَ وَجَاعِلُوهُ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

We inspired the mother of Moses: "Nurse him, but when you fear for him, put him then into the river, and do not fear or grieve. We will certainly return him to you, and make him one of the messengers." (Al-Qasas, 7)

- Allah's reassurance to Musa's mother teaches believers to trust Him during trials.

- Every hardship has a purpose, and Allah's wisdom prevails even when circumstances seem dire.
- **Hadith:**
 - *"Whoever gives up something for Allah's sake, Allah will replace it with something better."*
 - Musa's mother gave up her son temporarily but was promised his return.

The Story of Musa (AS) in Surah Al-Qasas

1. Born Under Persecution:

- Pharaoh's policy: Kill male children of Bani Israel to prevent their rise.
- Musa's birth defied Pharaoh's decree—a direct manifestation of Allah's will.

2. Placed in the River:

- Musa's mother, inspired by Allah, placed him in a basket and set it afloat.
- Despite apparent dangers, this act led to Allah's plan unfolding.

3. Raised in Pharaoh's Palace:

فَأَلْتَقَطَهُ آلُ فِرْعَوْنَ

"Then the family of Pharaoh picked him up..." (Al-Qasas, 7)

- Musa was taken into Pharaoh's household despite Pharaoh's intent to kill Israelite boys.

Allah's Supremacy and Control

● Truth vs. Falsehood:

- The essence of truth: It does not need to hide; its presence drives away falsehood.

جَاءَ الْحَقُّ وَزَهَقَ الْبُاطِلُ

"Truth has come, and falsehood has vanished." (Al-Isra, 81)

- **Allah's "Flex":**

- Allah demonstrates His power: Despite Pharaoh's plans, Musa is born, survives, and is raised by Pharaoh's resources.

Asiyah's Plea and Pharaoh's Reluctant Acceptance

1. The Role of Asiyah (RA):

- Asiyah convinces Pharaoh not to kill the child:

وَقَالَتِ امْرَأَتُ فِرْعَوْنَ قُرْتُ عَيْنٍ لِّي وَلَكَ لَا تَقْتُلُوهُ

"And the wife of Pharaoh said, 'A comfort for me and you. Do not kill him!'" (Al-Qasas, 9)

1. Pharaoh's Caution:

- While agreeing to keep Musa, Pharaoh remains wary and watches him closely.

The Sister's Role and Chaos in the Palace

1. Musa's Sister Observes:

- Follows the basket and sees Musa taken into the palace.
- Working in the palace, she keeps an eye on Musa and informs her mother.

2. The Palace in Chaos:

- Musa refuses to drink from any wet nurse for three days.
- Asiyah becomes desperate to save the child.

3. The Sister's Proposal:

- Suggests her mother as a wet nurse:

هَلْ أَذِلُّكُمْ عَلَيَّ أَهْلِي بَيْتٍ يَكْفُلُونَهُ

"Shall I direct you to a household who will take care of him?" (Al-Qasas, 12)

The Reunion of Musa and His Mother

- **A Mother's Heartache:**

- Musa's mother struggles emotionally:

وَأَصْبَحَ فُؤَادُ أُمِّ مُوسَى فُرْعَا

"And the heart of Musa's mother became empty." (Al-Qasas, 10)

- Despite her pain, Allah strengthens her heart:

لَوْلَا أَنْ رَبَطْنَا عَلَى قَلْبِهَا

"If it were not that We strengthened her heart..." (Al-Qasas, 10)

- **Allah's Intervention:**

- Musa's mother walks into the palace, emotionally overwhelmed.
- Allah grants her composure to avoid suspicion.

- **The Divine Promise Fulfilled:**

- Musa is returned to his mother as promised:

إِنَّا رَأَدُّوهُ إِلَيْكَ

"Indeed, We will return him to you." (Al-Qasas, 13)

- She is also compensated to nurse her child.

Lessons and Reflections

1. The Role of Each Individual:

- Musa's sister shows the importance of taking initiative and doing one's part.

2. Allah's Strength in Hardship:

- The mother's survival during separation is only through Allah's strength.
- Parallel to modern struggles, like those of parents in Gaza, who persevere through Allah's support.

3. Spirituality and Pain:

- Faith does not eliminate the pain of hardship but teaches how to navigate it.
- Examples:
 - Yaqub (AS) crying for Yusuf (AS).
 - Prophet Muhammad ﷺ mourning Khadijah (RA).

4. Allah's Wisdom in Testing:

- Allah's tests come with ultimate relief and better outcomes.

- Musa's mother not only reunites with her child but also gains financial support.

Musa (AS) in the Palace of Pharaoh

قَالَ أَلَمْ نُزَبِّكَ فِيْنَا وَلِيْدًا وَوَلِيْبْتًا فِيْنَا مِنْ عُمْرِكَ بَسِيْنٍ

"[Pharaoh] said, 'Did we not raise you among us as a child, and you stayed among us for many years?'" (Ash-Shu'ara, 18)

- **Key Point:**
 - Musa (AS) was raised by Pharaoh in his palace for 27–30 years, despite Pharaoh's corrupt environment.
- **Lesson on Environment and Individual Responsibility:**
 - Environment influences behavior but does not determine it.
 - Individuals must take responsibility for their actions and decisions.
 - On the Day of Judgment, Shaytan will reject blame, reminding people to blame themselves.
 - Quranic Perspective: Humans are judged by their own efforts and deeds.
- **Examples from History:**
 - **Positive Examples in Difficult Environments:** Musa (AS) was raised in Pharaoh's palace yet became a prophet.
 - **Negative Examples in Righteous Environments:**
 - Nuh's (AS) son rejected faith despite being the son of a prophet.
 - Lut's (AS) wife betrayed him despite being married to a prophet.
 - Yusuf's (AS) brothers acted unjustly despite their lineage.

Takeaway:

- **Societal Responsibility:** Muslims should strive to positively impact their environment instead of succumbing to its pressures.

- **Empowerment:** Change perceptions through truth and action, as seen in contemporary support for oppressed groups like Palestinians.

Musa's Stand for Justice and the Incident

وَلَمَّا بَلَغَ أَشُدَّهُ... فَوَجَدَ فِيهَا رَجُلَيْنِ يُفْتِنَانِ... فَوَكَرَهُ مُوسَى فَقَضَى عَلَيْهِ

"And when he reached full strength... he found two men fighting... So Musa struck him and unintentionally killed him." (Al-Qasas, 14-15)

- **Incident:**
 - Musa (AS) witnessed a member of Pharaoh's community oppressing a man from Bani Israel.
 - Intervening in defense, Musa (AS) struck the oppressor, unintentionally causing his death.
- **Understanding Mistakes of Prophets:**
 - Prophets are sinless (معصوم) but are still human and can make unintentional mistakes.
 - Musa's (AS) action was **خطأ (khata)** – a mistake, not an intentional sin.
 - Shariah differentiates between intentional crimes and unintentional mistakes.
- **Lesson:**
 - Mistakes are part of human nature; even prophets made unintentional errors.
 - Reflect on our judgments of others, considering how we wish our own families to be treated.

Lessons in Truth and Justice

Musa (AS) and Al-Khidr (AS):

- Musa (AS) struggled to understand Al-Khidr's actions because he prioritized principle over personality.

Key Points on Truth and Double Standards:

- Believers prioritize truth over personal biases.

- Example: Musa (AS) defended a member of Bani Israel one day but opposed him the next when he was the oppressor.
- Avoid selective morality:
 - Treat others' mistakes with the same compassion we desire for ourselves.
 - **Hadith Reference:**
 - The Prophet ﷺ emphasized treating others as we wish to be treated.

Broader Reflections on Responsibility

- **Rejecting Excuses:**
 - Avoid blaming friends, society, or external influences for personal shortcomings.
 - Take ownership of spiritual growth and actions.
- **Current Examples of Courage:**
 - Muslims worldwide worship Allah despite persecution (e.g., in Gaza and China).
 - Truth has the power to transform societal norms when upheld with sincerity.

Takeaway:

- Believers are agents of change.
- Strengthen personal faith and work to impact society positively, as Musa (AS) did in the corrupt environment of Pharaoh's palace.