

NABI MOOSA (AS*) PART 2

*(We must always say Alayhis Salaam when we mention the name of a Prophet. It means, "May ALLAH - Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala's blessing and mercy be on him")

Story Number
21

My Dear Children,

In the last issue of Al Mujaddid we started part 1 of the life of Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam). In this part we read about the birth and the difficult upbringing that he had. Ramses II, who was the ruling Pharaoh in Egypt was very cruel and arrogant. He mercilessly killed people who opposed him and even drowned children who he suspected will be a threat to him in the future. He made it known to the people that he was the only person to be obeyed and followed. With no belief in GOD he became very powerful and used force to rule the people.

However, ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) Who is the Most Powerful, protected Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) by arranging that he lived in the same palace with the wife of Ramses II. This arrangement did not last long as Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) was forced to leave Egypt to seek safety elsewhere when it was discovered that he was a Hebrew. Today we have a similar situation where certain powers in the world think nothing of killing innocent people including children with the excuse that they want to liberate the people who are suffering. We need to get back to the ways and commandments of our Creator to enjoy HIS safety and protection. Let us continue with the wonderful example of Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) to learn of his lessons in life as given in the Glorious Qur'an. Let this be a reminder to all of us to follow this path that ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) has given us to find a direction in our lives in this troubled world of today.

MOOSA LIVES WITH A FAMILY AND MARRIES

As he was sitting under the shade he noticed one of the girls coming back and walked up towards him and very modestly said, "My father is grateful for what you did for us. He invites you to come home so that he can thank you personally and at least give you something in return for your kindness" (28:25). Moosa was delighted at this news and accepted this invitation. When he reached their home and greeted the old man with gratitude he sat down and soon told the old man who he was, how the soldiers were throwing the baby boys into the Nile River, how he eventually lived in the palace, and finally about his escape from the unkind and cruel Ramses II who was looking for him. When the family heard his story they took pity on him and the father invited him to stay with them and offered him work on his farm (28:25,26).

He worked hard with this family and soon gained the old man's confidence. It was not long after when he approached the father and asked his permission to marry one of his daughters. The old man accepted his offer but requested him to remain with the family for at least 8 years. He agreed to this request of the old man and indicated that he may even stay for ten years. He then asked ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) to be a witness to this agreement (28:28).

MOOSA AND HIS FAMILY LEAVE

He married one of the girls and lived with them doing all the hard work and looking after the flock. He spent many years helping the old man and playing with his children. When his period of 10 years was up he informed his father-in-law that it was time that he moved along with his family. After saying farewell to them he left with his wife and children in the direction of Tuwa, a valley at the foot of the mountains of At Tur on the Sanai Peninsula.

They travelled during the day and rested at night. One day as the sun started to set and they were preparing to spend another night in the open, Moosa and his family spotted a fire burning not so far from them. As the nights were cold Moosa decided to walk over to where the fire was to meet the people of the fire and ask them for a burning log so that they could start their own fire to keep warm for the night (27:7 – 8 & 28:29).

NABI MOOSA BECOMES A PROPHET

When he reached the fire he saw no one sitting around it. As he started looking around and before he could call out he heard a voice coming from the valley, from the bushes as well as echoing from the ground, “O Moosa! Surely I am ALLAH, the Exalted in Might, the Wise (27:8,9 & 28:30). “What is that in your right hand O Moosa?” Moosa was startled and in his humble voice explained that it was his rod (staff or stick) that I lean on or beat down the fodder for my flock or even use it for other purposes (20:18). “Now throw down your rod” (27:10) and take off your shoes as you are in the valley of Tuwa” (20:12). When his lifeless stick was thrown down on the ground it started moving and wriggling like a snake. He was shocked and wanted to step backwards when this voice continued, “O Moosa fear not for you are in MY presence and those who are called to become messengers have no fear” (27:10 & 28:31). When Moosa pick up the stick again it stopped its motion and once more turned into a rod (20:21). “Listen to my commandments, “Verily I am ALLAH: there is no God but I. So serve me only and establish regular prayers for my remembrance” (20:14). He was also warned by this voice to believe in this commandment and not to follow his own lust or his own ways, which will direct him away from this message (20:16). He soon realised that this was no ordinary light coming from the fire but a heavenly light with a message from ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) to appoint him as a Messenger. There was no magic in his rod. It was the power of ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) that charged this rod with the power to defend him as well as assist him in fulfilling good deeds.

Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) was surprised at his appointment as the messenger of the Creator and wanted to turn it down. When he mentioned the killing of the soldier as a reason for his unsuitability, the voice said, “Surely I am Most Forgiving and Most Merciful.” He was asked to place his hand on his bosom (heart). When he lifted his hand away from his chest it was as white as snow without any stains of dirt on it (27:12). The above two and another seven signs (ayat) were given to Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) which he had to take to the arrogant Pharaoh and his transgressing people (7:133 & 27:12) and try and convince them to follow the true path. He was given nine Ayat (signs) and these are mentioned in Surah 7 Ayat 133, they are: the staff; the radiant hand; years of drought; short stunted crops; an epidemic killing many people; the damage by locust; the menace of lice, the overpopulation of frogs; and water turning into blood.

THE MISSION OF NABI MOOSA (Alayhis Salaam)

“Go you to Pharaoh for he has indeed transgressed all bounds” (20:24 & 20:42,43). After Nabi Moosa was spiritually prepared with the nine Ayat he was given the task to go to the Pharaoh and point out the error of his ways. He was to give him the message of the Oneness of GOD, and no partners must be made with HIM and he must also release the enslaved Israelites to leave Egypt to another place of safety. Nabi Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) was to use the nine Ayat to persuade and encourage the Pharaoh and the people to believe in the power and glory of the One and to worship none other than ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala).

He became quite worried at the thought of going back to Egypt and face the Pharaoh as he said, “O my LORD I have killed a man among them, and I fear that they will kill me (28:33). “I would prefer to take my elder brother, Haroun with me, as it will strengthen my task as well as be a good companion so that we can constantly remind one another of your YOUR LORDSHIP ” (20: 29 to 35 & 28:34). With this request ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) also appointed his brother as a Prophet (20:36). They were both given the protection of the Creator where no harm would come to them or any of the believers (20:46 & 28:40,41).

When he returned to his family he informed them of his appointment as a Prophet and was given a task to visit the Pharaoh and in a gentle way (20:44) try and convince him to worship ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) and not to make any partners with HIM by praying to other objects. The family arose early the next morning and headed in the direction of his brother, Nabi Haroon's (Alayhis Salaam), place. When they reached his place and after a meal he informed his brother of his experience and their appointment as Prophets with this heavy task.

NABI MOOSA & NABI HAROUN VISIT EGYPT

They soon made their preparations and the two brothers were on their way to Egypt. On their long journey on foot they constantly reminded one another to worship ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) and to establish their prayer in their actions, deeds and ways. Their prayer must be lived - when they saw the beauty and wonders of nature they said “Subhanallah” (glory be to ALLAH); when they were succeeded or had a

mishap they said “Alhamdoelillah” (all praises be to ALLAH); when a sudden sand storm befell them they reacted with “Allahu Akbr” (ALLAH is the greatest). Thus on their journey they learned and practiced to established their prayer by constantly accepting the power, the might, the mercy and the guidance of ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala). They had also learned to be grateful.

When they arrived in Egypt they rested. When they were ready they made their way to the Palace to give their message to the Pharaoh. When they arrived at the palace Nabi Moosa asked ALLAH (Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala) to help and assist them by reciting the following dua, “O my LORD expand me my breast, and ease my task for me, and remove the impediments from my speech, so they may understand me” (20:25 to 28). They were also given the guidance of what to say, “Verily we are messengers sent by your LORD. Send away, therefore the children of Israel with us and do not punish them anymore. We have come with Ayat from your LORD. And peace to all who follow HIS guidance. HE has also revealed to us the punishment that awaits those who reject and turn away” (20:47,48).

When the Pharaoh heard these words he became a little agitated as he thought that he was in charge of this kingdom and he was the only Lord with all the power. He enquired from them as to who their LORD was.

Nabi Moosa not fearing the Pharaoh gave an excellent account of who his LORD was. He is not only my LORD:

- HE is the LORD of the worlds (1:2 & 7:104).
- HE is the LORD that gave each created thing its form and also guidance (20:50).
- HE has knowledge of all things and is the LORD who never makes a mistake nor does HE forget as everything is recorded (20:52).
- HE has made the earth like a carpet and therein made roads and channels for easy access and for your benefit (20:53).
- HE has sent down water from the skies enabling the earth to produce many varieties of plants (also in pairs) different from one another (20:53) but beneficial to all.
- HE is the LORD that has provided these plants for your nourishment as well as fodder for your animals (20:54).
- HE has created you from the earth, where you shall return to when you die and you shall be raised once more from the same earth (20:55).

When the Pharaoh heard this he became more angry and furious at them.

to be continued in the next issue of al mujaddid