

Prophet Musa (A.S.)

Prophet Musa ibn ‘Imran (A.S.) is one of the greatest and most honoured Prophets of Allah (S.W.T.). He was born in Egypt among the Banu Israel, the descendants of the Nabi Ya’qub (A.S.). Allah (S.W.T.) chose Prophet Musa (A.S.) as a Messenger and revealed the Tawrat to him as guidance for his people. His history is one of the most frequently mentioned prophetic histories in the Qur’an, and his name is mentioned 136 times throughout the Qur’an. His life teaches us many important lessons about faith, courage, patience, and complete reliance upon Allah (S.W.T.).

During the time of Prophet Musa (A.S.), Egypt was ruled by a cruel king known as Fir’awn. Fir’awn had been informed that a boy from among the Banu Israel would one day grow up and challenge his kingdom. Fearing the loss of his power, Fir’awn ordered that all newborn boys among the Banu Israel be killed. When the mother of Prophet Musa (A.S.) learned of this, she became extremely worried for her child. However, Allah (S.W.T.) inspired her to place the infant Prophet Musa (A.S.) in a basket and set it upon the river. Allah (S.W.T.) strengthened her heart and gave her the courage to follow His command.

By the will of Allah (S.W.T.), the basket eventually reached Fir’awn’s household. Fir’awn and his wife, Sayyidah Aasiyah (R.A.), discovered the infant Musa (A.S.). Unlike her husband, Sayyida Aasiya was a kind and righteous woman. She pleaded with Fir’awn to spare the child and allow them to keep him. Fir’awn eventually agreed, and as a result, Prophet Musa (A.S.) was raised within the very palace of the ruler who had ordered the killing of the children of his people. This was one of the many ways in which Allah (S.W.T.) protected Prophet Musa (A.S.) despite the great danger surrounding him.

As Prophet Musa (A.S.) grew older, Allah (S.W.T.) eventually chose him for Prophethood. On one occasion, while travelling with his family, Prophet Musa (A.S.) saw what appeared to be a fire near Mount Tur. He approached the light, and there Allah (S.W.T.) called out to him. Allah (S.W.T.) said, **“O Musa! Verily, I am Allah, the Lord of the worlds.”** (Qur’an 28:30). Allah (S.W.T.) then selected Prophet Musa (A.S.) as His Messenger and commanded him to go to Fir’awn and call him towards the truth. Prophet Musa (A.S.) was also given miraculous signs as proof of his Prophethood such as, when he put his hand under his arm, it would come out shining.

Before visiting Fir’awn, Prophet Musa (A.S.) shared his concern with Allah (S.W.T.) that the people would not listen to him. This was because when he was a baby, Prophet Musa (A.S.) put a coal in his mouth, and it became difficult for him to speak. While speaking to Allah (S.W.T.), he requested to bring his brother Prophet Harun (A.S.), saying he was more eloquent in speech, and would be able to help convince the disbelievers. Allah (S.W.T.) accepted his request, and so Prophet Musa (A.S.) and Prophet Harun (A.S.) faced Fir’awn’s people together. Before speaking to them, though, Prophet Musa (A.S.) made a very important dua to Allah (S.W.T.) to help with his speech:

Rabbishrah lee sadree wa yassir lee amree wahlul ‘uqdatan min lisaanee yafqahu qawlee

“My Lord, expand for me my breast and ease for me my task, and untie the knot from my tongue, that they may understand my speech”.

This dua is normally recited by Muslim scholars before their talk. It helped Prophet Musa (A.S.) talk to the people of Fir’awn, and displayed his faith in Allah (S.W.T.) to help guide him.

Once reaching the palace, Prophet Musa (A.S.) displayed one of the other great miracles given to him by Allah (S.W.T): his staff. When he threw it onto the ground, it transformed into a large serpent by the permission of Allah (S.W.T.). At that time, magic was widespread among the people of Egypt, so Fir'awn accused Prophet Musa (A.S.) of practising magic. He summoned his magicians and ordered them to challenge Prophet Musa (A.S.). The magicians threw their ropes and staffs onto the ground, making them appear like snakes. However, when Prophet Musa (A.S.) threw down his staff, it became a great serpent and swallowed what they had produced.

The magicians immediately recognized that this was not ordinary magic. They understood that such a miracle could only have come from Allah (S.W.T.), and they therefore believed in Allah (S.W.T.) and accepted Prophet Musa (A.S.) as His Prophet. This greatly angered Fir'awn, and he responded with even greater cruelty towards the Banu Israel. Despite Fir'awn's arrogance and oppression, Allah (S.W.T.) instructed Prophet Musa (A.S.) to speak to him with kindness. However, Fir'awn continued to reject the truth. Allah (S.W.T.) then sent a number of signs and punishments, yet Fir'awn and his people remained stubborn in their disbelief.

Eventually, Allah (S.W.T.) commanded Prophet Musa (A.S.) to lead the Banu Israel away from the oppression of Fir'awn. As they travelled, Fir'awn and his army pursued them. The Banu Israel eventually found themselves trapped, with the sea in front of them and Fir'awn's army behind them. They became frightened and believed that they had nowhere to escape. However, Prophet Musa (A.S.) remained confident in Allah (S.W.T.) and reassured his people that Allah (S.W.T.) was with them.

By the command of Allah (S.W.T.), Prophet Musa (A.S.) struck the sea with his staff. The sea parted, creating pathways through the water for the Banu Israel, allowing Prophet Musa (A.S.) and his people to cross safely to the other side. Fir'awn arrogantly assumed the sea had parted for him. But when he and his army followed them into the sea, Allah (S.W.T.) caused the waters to come crashing down upon them. Fir'awn and his army were drowned, while Prophet Musa (A.S.) and the Banu Israel were saved by the mercy and power of Allah (S.W.T.).

In conclusion, the life of Prophet Musa (A.S.) is a powerful example of faith, courage, patience, and trust in Allah (S.W.T.). From the moment of his birth, when Allah (S.W.T.) protected him from Fir'awn, to when the sea was parted for him and his people, Prophet Musa (A.S.) demonstrated complete reliance upon his Lord. He reminds us that even when a situation appears impossible, Allah (S.W.T.) always provides a way forward. We should therefore remain patient during times of difficulty, stand firmly against wrongdoing, and place our trust in Allah (S.W.T.), knowing that His wisdom and plan are greater than our own.

By: Aasiya Salyani