

The Story of Musa and Khidhr **(alayhimas salaam)**

Musa (alayhis salam) Informed of a Wise Man

One day Musa (alayhis salam) delivered such an impressive sermon that all who heard it were deeply moved. Someone in the congregation asked: "O Messenger of Allah, is there any man on earth more learned than you?" Musa replied: "No!" believing so, as Allah had given him the power of miracles and honored him with the Torah.

However, Allah revealed to Musa that no man could know all there is to know, nor would one messenger alone be the custodian of all knowledge. There would always be another who knew what others did not. Musa asked Allah: "O Allah, where is this man? I would like to meet him and learn from him." He also asked for a sign to this person's identity.

Allah instructed him to take a live fish in a water-filled vessel. When the fish disappeared, he would find the man he was looking for. Musa set out on his journey, accompanied by a young man, Joshua (Yusha` Ibn Nun), who carried the vessel with the fish. They reached a place where two rivers met and decided to rest there. Instantly, Musa fell asleep.

Musa (alayhis salaam) Finds Khidhr

While he was asleep, his companion saw the fish amazingly jump out of the vessel into the river and swim away. However, he forgot to relate the incident to Musa. When he awoke, they continued their journey until they were exhausted and hungry. Musa asked for his morning meal. Only then did his companion recall that the fish they had brought with them had gotten away. Hearing this, Musa exclaimed: "This is exactly what we are seeking!"

They quickly retraced their steps to the place where the rivers met and where the fish had jumped out. There they found a man, his face partly covered with a hood. His appearance looked like that of a saintly man. He was Khidhr, the guide.

Musa Talks to Khidhr

Musa greeted him, and said: "I am Musa."

The man asked: "Musa of Bani Israel?"

Musa said: "yes, I have come to you so that you may teach me from those things which Allah has taught you."

He said: "O Musa! I have some of the knowledge of Allah which Allah has taught me and which you do not know, you have some of the knowledge of Allah which Allah has taught you and which I do not know."

Musa asked:

"May I follow you?"

He said: "But you will not be able to remain patient with me, for how can you be patient about things which you will not be able to understand?"

Musa said: "You will find me truly patient, if Allah so wills, and I will not disobey you."

The First Incident

So both of them set out walking along the seashore. A boat passed by them, and they asked the crew of the boat to take them on board. The crew recognized Khidhr, so they took them on board without fare. When they were on board the boat, a sparrow came and stood on the edge of the boat and dipped its beak once or twice into the sea. Khidhr said to Musa: "O Musa! My knowledge and your knowledge have not decreased Allah's knowledge except as much as this sparrow has decreased the water of the sea with its beak."

Then suddenly Khidhr took an axe and pulled up a plank, and Musa did not notice it till he had pulled up a plank with the axe.

Musa said to him: "What have you done? They took us on board charging us nothing; yet you have intentionally made a hole in their boat to drown its passengers. Verily, you have

done a dreadful thing." Khidhr replied: "Did I not tell you that you would not be able to remain patient with me?"

Musa replied: "Do not blame me for what I have forgotten, and do not be hard upon me for my fault." So the first excuse of Musa was that he had forgotten.

The Second Incident

When they had left the sea, they passed by a boy playing with other boys. Khidhr took a hold of the boy's head and twisted it. Musa said to him: "Have you killed an innocent person who has not killed any person? You have really done a horrible thing." Khidhr said: "Did I not tell you that you could not remain patient with me?" Musa said: "If I ask you about anything after this, don't accompany me. You have received an excuse from me."

The Third Incident

Then both of them went on till they came to some people of a village, and they asked its inhabitants for food but they refused to entertain them as guests. Then they saw a wall which was just going to collapse and Khidhr repaired it just by touching it with his hands. Musa said: "These are the people whom we have called on, but they neither gave us food, nor looked after us as guests, yet you have repaired their wall?! If you had wished, you could have taken wages for it!"

Khidhr said: "This is the parting between you and me, and I shall tell you the explanation of those things on which you could not remain patient."

Allah Ta`ala mentions the lessons behind these incidents in the Noble Qur'an:

As for the ship, it belonged to poor people working in the sea. So I wished to make a defective damage in it, as there was a king after them, who seized every ship by force.

And as for the boy, his parents were believers, and we feared lest he should oppress them by rebellion and disbelief. So we intended that their Lord should change him for them for one better in righteousness and near to mercy.

"And as for the wall, it belonged to two orphan boys in the town; and there was under it a treasure belonging to them; and their father was a righteous man, and your Lord intended that they should attain their age of full strength and take out their treasure as a mercy from your Lord. And I did it not of my own accord.

That is the interpretation of those (things) over which you could not hold patience." (Surah Kahf: 79-82)

"The Prophet (alayhis salam) added: "We wish that Musa could have remained patient by which Allah might have told us more about their story." (Sahih Bukhari)

