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Stories of the Prophets...

HAZRAT MUSA (PEACE BE UPON HIM)

Publication Department Lajna Ima'illah UK, 2022

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Stories of the Prophets... Hazrat Musaas

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بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

My Dear Children

Assalamo Alaikum

I hope and pray that you read the series of books on the stories of prophets and learn from them.

Allah the Almighty has sent hundreds of thousands of prophets over the course of humanity for our benefit. All prophets have one main message and that is to bring their people closer to God.

There is so much to learn from these books like power of prayers, importance of being truthful and kind, how brave and resilient they were and much more.

May Allah enable you to read these books and learn from them for your own benefit and knowledge. All that you learn at this age helps your understanding of your faith and makes it stronger. These stories are also very inspiring and have many moral lessons to learn.

Please read them yourself or even better, with your parents.

Wassalam

Yours sincerely

Fariha Khan

Serving as Sadr Lajna UK

بِسْمِ اللهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِيْمِ

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, our thanks and praise are due to Almighty Allah without Whose boundless Grace and Blessings none of our work would be possible.

Lajna Ima'illah UK is privileged to receive the nurturing support and direct advice of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}. This inspires our women always and we earnestly pray that we continue to enjoy this Grace of Allah for a very long time. Ameen

I am grateful to Sadr Lajna Ima'illah UK, Dr Fariha Khan Sahiba for her numerous prayers and steady guidance on this project. Under her direction, a team of lajna members, co-ordinated by Mrs. Qudsia Ward worked together to create this series of books suitable for young children telling the stories of the prophets mentioned in the Holy Quran. The following members of the writing team require a special mention for their splendid work together, sharing knowledge and experience in the process of producing these books. Mehwish Choudry; Aalia Rahman; Anusha Waheed; Bareera Saqib Mansoor; Fezia Ul Haq; Hanaa Khan; Humda Bilal; Khola Shah; Maryam Ahmed; Mufleha Saleem Ahmad; Saleha Bakhtiar; Siemah Ahmad; Atifa Ahmad and Hadiqa Asma.

May Almighty Allah bless them all and enable them to continue to work successfully in the service of Jamaat.

Mrs. Lubna Sohail Serving as National Secretary Isha'at UK 2022

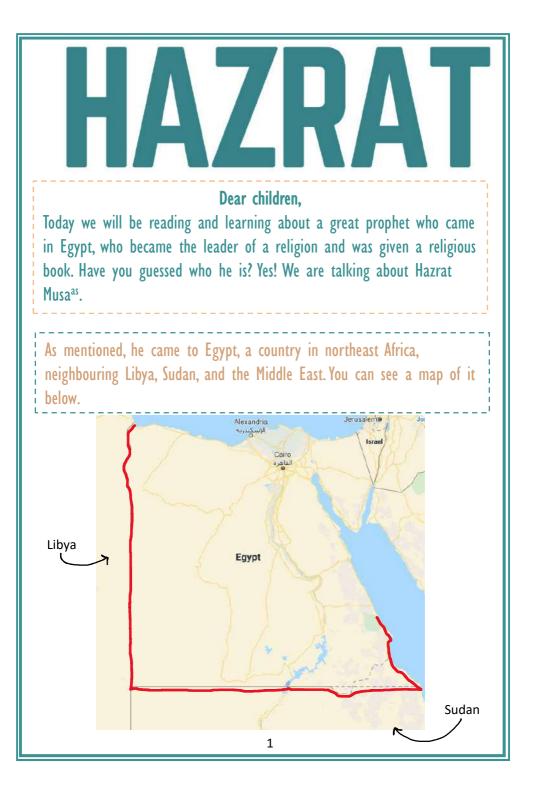
Guide for Parents

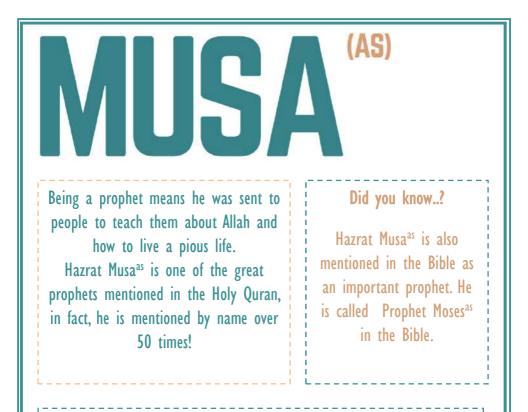
This book, one of a series of books, produced by Lajna Imaillah UK, is based on the stories of the prophets narrated in the Holy Quran. The books are designed for children of primary school age who can read for themselves and try the activities independently.

It is intended that after reading these stories you can help your children to find the stories in the Holy Quran and read them for themselves.

We also hope that you will also be able to use the books with younger children by reading to them and discussing the story events. Then you can enjoy doing the activities with your children.

May Almighty Allah enable us to follow the illuminating path of the righteous people who are a beacon of light for all humanity.





The Holy Quran tells us about Hazrat Musa^{as} in Surah Maryam, verse 52, saying:



"And relate *the story of* Moses *as mentioned* in the Book. He was indeed a chosen one; and he was a Messenger, a Prophet."

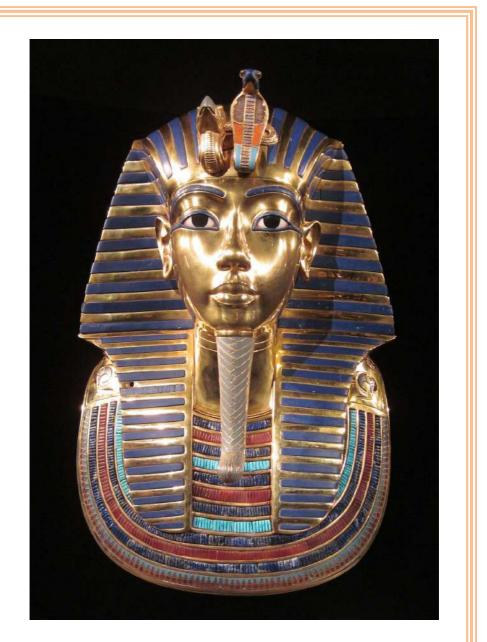
The story of Hazrat Musa^{as} has many interesting lessons, lets read on to understand his story, as given in the Holy Quran...

Birth Musa

Hazrat Musa^{as} was born in Egypt at a time when Pharaoh was the leader. Pharaoh was a cruel tyrant — an oppressor, a dictator. When a leader is horrible and oppresses his people greatly, they fear a riot taking place. Pharaoh feared rebellion and, therefore, he employed all sorts of means to keep the Israelites under his permanent control. The Holy Quran tells us about this in Surah Baqarah, verse 50.

Did you know..?

The term 'Pharaoh' is a title used to describe the monarchs (kings/ leaders) of ancient Egypt! In this story 'Pharaoh' is mentioned lots of times but it is referring to a number of different leaders.



Tutankhamun, one of the Egyptian Pharaohs

Dear children, do you know that Hazrat Musa^{as}, like all prophets before him, had a purpose. His task is described in the Holy Quran, Surah Al-Qasas, verses 6 and 7, where his mission and responsibility is to:

free Israel from the cruelties and bondage of Pharaoh and to encourage their progress.

God appoints prophets to lead people to a better life. Through the prophet's teaching, and under his leadership, overpowered and mistreated people become free and then become the leaders and teachers of others.

At the time of Hazrat Musa's birth, the Pharaoh would order all the Israelite baby boys to be killed, but allow the baby girls to live. So how was it that Hazrat Musa²⁵ survived? The answer is very simple because that is what Allah the Almighty had planned and Allah is the greatest of all Planners. In Surah Taha, verse 40, Allah explains to the mother of Hazrat Musa^{as} how to keep him safe. It says, that Allah told the mother of Hazrat Musa^{as} to wrap her baby son and put him in an ark to float down the river. His older sister kept an eye on him, following the ark and making sure she kept out of sight.

The ark travelled down the river until eventually the Pharaoh's daughter spotted it and picked Hazrat Musa^{as} out of the river. This part of the story is described in Surah Al-Qasas, verses 9 and 10.

These verses explain that the Pharaoh's wife convinced her husband to adopt Hazrat Musa^{as} instead of killing him, as he instructed to do for all baby boys. The Pharaoh agreed, thinking maybe the child would be good for them, be the joy of their eyes.

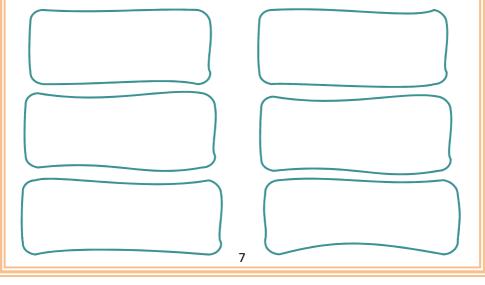
Of course, at the time they did not know they were adopting a prophet who would later receive the mission to free the people from the evils of the Pharaoh.

6

Hazrat Musa^{as} was going to be given the difficult task of **freeing the people who had been held as slaves for a very long time by a cruel and powerful king.** It was important that he should have the necessary training for this great mission. So it was in fulfilment of this Divine plan that he found his way into Pharaoh's own house.

Allah the Almighty's ways of doing things are so amazing that no one can even imagine what His plans may be. Now just look at the Pharaoh — he was cruel, he was a dictator and all he wanted was to be powerful and keep the Israelites under his command. But he did not know Allah's plan!

Allah is Al-Malik — the Possessor of Supreme Power. His plans are the best of plans. Can you think of some more attributes that show the Greatness of Allah?



Dear children, what do you do when you lose your favourite toy? How do you feel when something important to you breaks or is taken away? Do you cry or get upset and do not know what to do? Can you imagine how the mother of Hazrat Musa^{as} felt when she put him in the river? What gave her strength through this big step that she had to take was her faith in Allah. Allah's promise to his mother is explained in Surah AL-Qasas, verse 8.

In Surah Al-Qasas, Allah tells his mother to feed him and look after him until she thinks he is in danger. Then, she put him in the river and Allah would protect him. Allah told her He would make him a one of the Messengers.

What a wonderful way, Allah fulfilled this promise! When Hazrat Musa^{as} was adopted by Pharaoh's wife, many women tried to feed him, but he refused milk from each and every one of them. This is when his sister, who following him down the river, approached Pharaoh's family and said: 'Shall I guide you to one who will take charge of him?' And she guided him to his mother, as explained in Surah Taha, verse 41:

> "So We restored thee to thy mother that her eye might be cooled and she might not grieve."

Allah planned the whole matter and Hazrat Musa^{as} was back in the loving arms of his mother.

Dear children, by fulfilling His promise, in this way Allah not only showed His existence but also His knowledge and how He, Allah the Almighty, has supreme control over all things.

Hazrat Musa^{as} had both, spiritual knowledge and worldly knowledge – knowledge of science and other matters going on around him in that era. By the time that he reached the age of maturity, he was a 'mohsin' – a constant doer of good deeds.

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| Activity Page background & early life | | | | | | | |
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| Revision Questions! | | | | | | | |
| Why was Hazrat Musa ^{as} put in an ark and pushed down the river? | | | | | | | |
| Who picked up Hazrat Musa ^{as} from the ark? | | | | | | | |
| How did Allah fulfil His promise of uniting the mother of Hazrat Musa ^{as} with her son? | | | | | | | |
| What does the word 'Mohsin' mean and who in this story so far is called by this name? | | | | | | | |
| 11 Hazrat Musa (as), north-eastern Africa, Sudan, Libya, Middle East, Prophet Moses, Pharaoh, Dictator, Oppressor, Cruelty, Prophet, Istael, Allah, Poorty, Leaders, Teachers I I | | | | | | | |

incident with the fight

Being of a very noble nature Hazrat Musa^{as} was always ready to help the weak and oppressed. Once, a poor, weak Israelite man sought his help against an arrogant and cruel Egyptian. Hazrat Musa^{as} went to help him. He entered the city and found therein two men fighting — one of his own party, and the other of his enemies. And he who was of his party sought his help. So Moses smote him with his fist; and thereby caused his death. He said, as stated in Surah Qasas, verse 16:

'This is of Satan's doing; he is indeed an enemy, a manifest misleader.'

Dear children, according to an Arabic idiom, the expression "this is of Satan's doing" means that something bad has happened. So, if you look at this from Hazrat Musa's point of view it would mean that Satan had caused an Egyptian and an Israelite to fight. This resulted in an evil thing, that is, the death of a person. Or the words might have been addressed to the Egyptian person who died, which would then mean that "this is the outcome of your satanic deed, that is, your death is the result of your own wickedness and transgression".

Surah Al-Qasas, verse 17 explains that Hazrat Musa^{as} was very sorry for what had happened so he prayed to Allah for forgiveness:

رَبِّ إِنِّي ظَلَمُتُ نَفُسِي فَاغُفِرُ لِيُ فَغَفَرَ لَهُ ٢

'My Lord, I have wronged my soul, therefore forgive me.'

As a result of this fight, the chiefs in Egypt came together and agreed to kill Hazrat Musa^{as}. However, as described in Surah Qasas, verse 21, a man came to warn Hazrat Musa^{as} of what was going to happen. He told Hazrat Musa^{as} that he was a friend and that he was warning him for his own safety.

So, Hazrat Musa^{as} decided that it would be safe to migrate from Egypt to Midian.

Did you know ..?

Midian or Madyan is the name of a town on the east side of the Gulf of 'Akaba'.

The name is connected with that of the tribe of Midianites.



Did you know ..?

Midian or Madyan is mentioned in the Holy Quran about 10 times!

It has also been mentioned in the Torah.

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| Israel, Midian 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Hazrat (as) in MUSAMIDIAN After maying from Egypt to Midian the part of Hazrat Musa's story is

After moving from Egypt to Midian, the next part of Hazrat Musa's story is described in Surah Al-Qasas, verses 23-25.

In these verses, it is explained that Hazrat Musa^{as} went towards Midian and prayed to his Lord to guide him the right way. When he arrived at river in Midian, he found a group of people (both men and women) with their herd of animals. Seeing the women unable to help their flock, he asked them why they could not feed their animals. The women explained that they were unable to do so and their father could not help due to his old age. Hazrat Musa^{as} then prayed to Allah:

رَبّ إِنِّى لِمَآ اَنْزَلۡتَ إِلَىَّ مِنۡ خَيۡرٍ فَقِيۡرُ

'My Lord, I am in need of whatever good Thou mayest send down to me.'

The girls seemed to be very careful of the honour of their father. Therefore, in order to clear Hazrat Musa's mind of any misconception that their father might be a lazy, careless man who had sent his young daughters to the well while he sat home, they told Hazrat Musa^{as} that their father (Shu'aib) was an old man and could not come himself to water his flock. Shu'aib had grown very old and needed an honest man to look after his flocks. Hazrat Musa^{as} had all the characteristics he was looking for so he asked for his help and service.

Shu'aib also realised that Hazrat Musa^{as} was a good man. He wanted him to get married to one of his daughters. Hazrat Musa^{as} was given a proposal for marriage by the father of the girls on the condition that he stayed in Midian for eight years and helped the family. This is explained in Surah Al-Qasas, verse 28.

Shu'aib said to Hazrat Musa^{as} that I would like you to marry one of my daughters on the condition that you work with me for at least 8 years. If you decide to stay for 10 years that would be better. I promise to not put you through difficulty. You will find that, if Allah wills, I am one of the righteous people.

A brief timeline of prophets

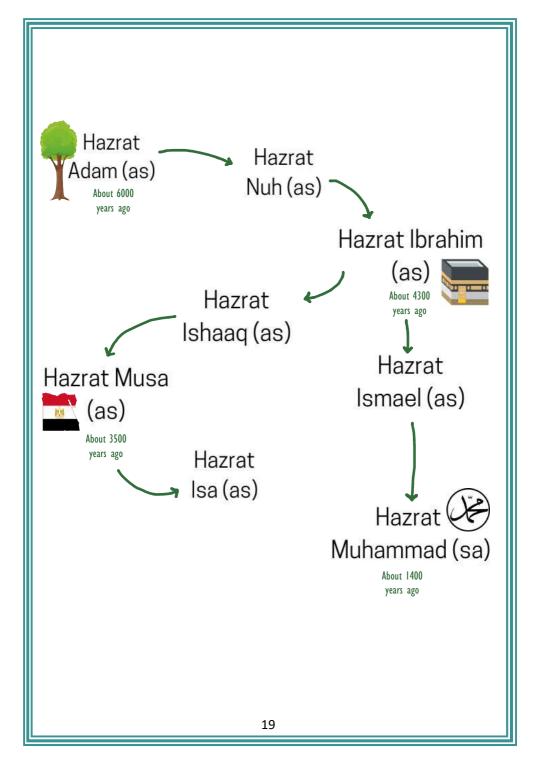
We have learnt so far that Hazrat Musa^{as} was a prophet who came to help the people oppressed by Pharaoh. But he also came to teach his people right from wrong and the truth about Allah. Of course, Pharaoh being a tyrant, a dictator, rejected this message and did not want anyone knowing of better more righteous ways.

Hazrat Muas^{as} was not the first prophet to come with this message. In fact, there have been over 124,000 prophets, starting with Hazrat Adam^{as} that have come to teach people with this message.

A timeline of some of these prophets is given on the next page.

Did you know ..?

All the prophets that came before the Holy Prophet^{sa} taught a message to a specific group or nation of people. However, Islam and the message of the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa} is universal and is for everyone.



Returns^(as) Returns^tEgypt

After Hazrat Musa^{as} served his time in Midian, he returned back with his family. This is described in Surah Al-Qasas, verses 30-32:

Hazrat Musa^{as} made a promise to Shu'aib and when he fulfilled his promise, he began his travel, with his family back to Egypt, where he was born. However, as explained in Surah Al-Qasas, on their journey back they came across a mountain that had a fire coming from it. So, he went to investigate hoping to bring back some helpful information or some fire to keep them warm and asked his family to wait for him. As he approached the light, he was called by a voice from the right side of the Valley, out of the tree: 'O Moses, verily I am Allah, the Lord of the worlds.' And it also said: 'Throw down your rod.' when he did so, he saw that the rod moved as if it were a serpent. Scared, he turned back retreating and did not wait. But the voiced called 'O Moses, come forward and fear not; surely you art of those who

are safe.'



The same incident of the rod and the serpent is also mentioned in Surah Taha, verse 21:

> "So he cast it down, and behold! it was a serpent running."

The rod did not actually turn into a serpent but was just made to appear like one. Therefore, it did not in any way go against the law of nature. The miracle was intended to provide a very powerful proof in support of Hazrat Musa^{as}, to comfort him that his people would not permanently remain as idolaters or practice other evils, but the instant that they came under his care, they would again become his good and God-fearing companions. God also showed Hazrat Musa^{as} another sign. Surah Al-Qasas, verse 33 tells us that God says,

"Insert thy hand into thy bosom; it will come forth white

without evil effect ... "

Did you know ..?

Bosom means 'chest'

Allah having said to Hazrat Musa^{as} "'Insert your hand into your bosom; it will come forth white without evil *effect...*" was symbolic language. It was a clear hint to Hazrat Musa^{as} that if he kept his followers close to him and under his care, they would not only become men of light themselves, but would also shine light to others. This miracle therefore, was not the work of a magician but a Sign full of deep spiritual significance.

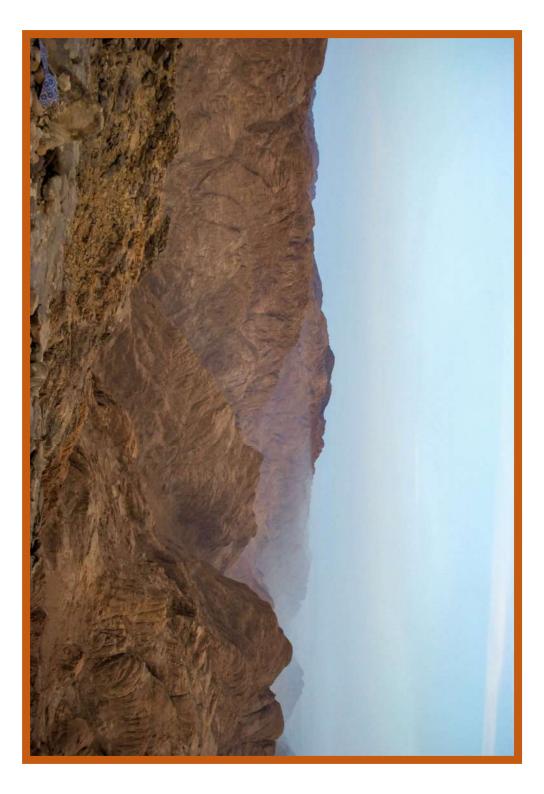
Dear children, on his return to Egypt, Hazrat Musa^{as} showed nine signs to the Pharaoh. These are listed in Surah Al-A'raf, verse 134.

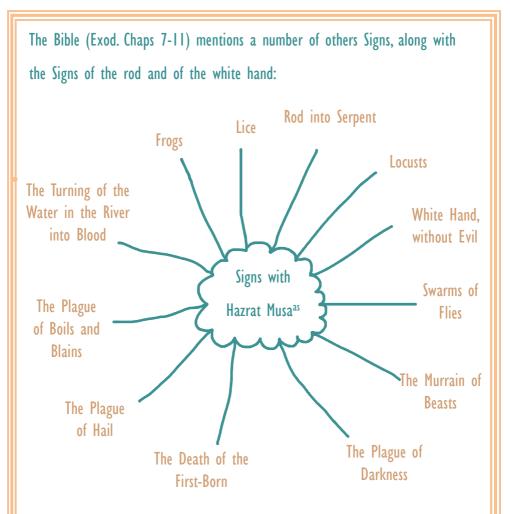
In this verse it says:

"Then We sent upon them the storm and the locusts, and the lice, and the frogs, and the blood — clear Signs; but they behaved proudly and were a sinful people."

Hazrat Musa^{as} was trying to guide his people to the right path. These signs showed them that they were not on the right path.

This verse explains two kinds of punishments mentioned here. Locusts and storms bring famine, whereas lice and frogs and blood may cause disease resulting in loss of life.





All these Signs are included in the signs mentioned in the Holy Quran. The word 'storm' includes of the plague of hail and the plague of darkness; locusts expresses the plague of locusts; the plague of lice includes lice, the swarm of flies, the murrain of beasts and the death of the first-born, because all these may be caused by infection which can be carried through lice, flies and mosquitoes. The **sign** of the blood includes the turning of the water of the river into blood as well as boils and blains. The sign of blood may also include the death of the first-born.

The **turning of the water of the river into blood** may also mean that the water of the river became polluted so that it infected the blood of those who drank from it. This means that the water of the river became unfit for drinking.

Similarly, the storms raised dust which gave rise to lice.

Hazrat Musa^{as} prayed that his brother Hazrat Aaron^{as} be allowed to help him (Surah Ash-Shu'ara', verse 14).

In this verse Hazrat Musa^{as} says that his chest is tight and he cannot clearly explain what he wants, so send Aaron.

In Surah Taha, verse 30-36, it is recorded that:

Hazrat Musa^{as} prayed to Allah that he needed help in the task Allah had given him. He asked for help from his family, specifically his brother. Hazrat Musa^{as} prayed that together they could increase the strength and make the task more achievable. Together they would glorify the name of Allah. Allah then commanded both, Hazrat Musa^{as} and his brother Hazrat Aaron(as), to go to Pharaoh, in Surah Taha, verse 43:

"Go, thou and thy brother, with My Signs, and slacken not in remembering Me."

Dear children, the words here, "and slacken not in remembering Me," show that prayer and constant remembrance of God are necessary in order to be successful. They are the spiritual tools which one must use along with physical and material means for any progress and success. God's command to Hazrat Musa^{as} and Hazrat Aaron^{as} to use these means, although He had promised them His help, makes it very clear that the promise of Divine help does not free us of the duty to use those methods which God has created for the achievement of a certain object.

> God wants us to use all true means that lie in our power for the success of our object and then leave the rest to Him.

Did you know ..?

The name of the Pharaoh to whom Hazrat Musa^{as} went as a Prophet and showed the Signs of Allah was Ramesis II. This Pharaoh was not the one who took in Hazrat Musa^{as} from the river when he was a baby.

Allah commanded Hazrat Musa^{as} and Hazrat Aaron^{as} in the Holy Quran, Surah Taha, verse 44-45.

In these verses, they are commanded to go to Pharaoh as he has crossed all limits. Allah told Hazrat Musa^{as} to speak gently to him in case he would change his mind.

When Hazrat Musa^{as} was commanded to go, he prayed to Allah the Almighty (Surah Taha, verse 26-29):



"...'My Lord, open out for me my breast; 'And ease for me my task; 'And loose the knot of my tongue, 'That they may understand my speech"

Then, as stated in Surah Al-A'Raf, verse 105-106, Hazrat Musa^{as} and Hazrat Aaron^{as} preached to Pharaoh.

Hazrat Musa approached the Pharaoh and explained to him that he is the Messenger from the Lord of the world and therefore all that He says is truthful. He said that I have shown you so many clear signs, so let the children of Israel go with me.

When Hazrat Musa^{as} went to Pharaoh, his aim was not so much preaching his message to Pharoah but to ask him to free the Israelites. As a matter of fact, the message of Hazrat Musa^{as} was meant mainly for the Israelites, but as long as the Israelites remained mixed up with the natives of Egypt, Hazrat Musa^{as} had to preach to them both. Later, when the Israelites left Egypt, Hazrat Musa^{as} limited his attention to his own people. Hazrat Musa^{as} had a debate with Pharaoh, as stated in Surah Taha, verses 50-52.

In these verses,

Pharaoh asked "Who is the Lord of you two, O Moses?" Hazrat Musa^{as} replied, "Our Lord is He who gave everything its proper form and then guided it to its proper function." Pharaoh said, "What then will be the fate of the former generations?"

Hazrat Musa's^{as} reply to Pharaoh's question contained in the previous verse seemed to have confused Pharaoh. So he cleverly changed the subject he himself started and asked Hazrat Musa^{as} a new question. He asked Hazrat Musa^{as} whether his God knew anything about earlier generations who were dead and gone. What would happen to them, because they had not had the benefit of receiving guidance from him (Hazrat Musa^{as}). Thus in a crafty manner Pharaoh wanted to turn people against Hazrat Musa^{a.s} by hinting that Hazrat Musa^{as} regarded their forefather's lack of heavenly guidance as deserving of Divine punishment. In Surah Taha, verse 53, Hazrat Musa^{as} explains that the knowledge of former generations is preserved in a Book. Hazrat Musa^{as} repeated that Allah is never in error, nor does He ever forget.

Hazrat Musa^{as} gave a clever reply to Pharaoh's sly tactics. He told Pharaoh that he should not bother about the former generations. His God knew all about them and every detail concerning them, well preserved in His knowledge and on the Day of Resurrection. He would deal with them all according to their deeds and actions, taking into consideration their particular conditions and circumstances.

Dear children, Pharaoh demanded signs from Hazrat Musa^{as}

"...If thou hast indeed come with a Sign, then produce it, if thou art of the truthful."

(Surah Al-A'Raf, verse 107).

Hazrat Musa^{as} showed his signs, as described in next verse of Surah Taha:

"So he flung down his rod and behold! it was a serpent plainly visible."

This miracle could have been a vision, a sign to the people, as it was to Hazrat Musa^{as} to strengthen their faith. Indeed, miracles shown by God's Prophets are not like the performances of jugglers. They are meant to serve some great moral and spiritual purpose. One of their primary objects is to bring about certainty of faith and create feelings of piety and fear of God in the minds of those who witness them.

If the rod had actually turned into a serpent, the whole performance must have looked more like the tricks of a juggler than a miracle of a Prophet. Dear children, The rod **appeared like a moving serpent**. It was a sort of a vision in which God either exercised special control over the sight of the onlookers in order to make them see the rod in the form of a serpent or the rod itself was made to appear like a serpent; and this vision was shared by Pharaoh and his courtiers and the enchanters along with Hazrat Musa^{as}.

The rod remained a rod, only it appeared to Hazrat Musa^{as} and the others as a serpent.

And then he showed the onlookers his hand, which appeared white to them. Pharaoh called his magicians who challenged Hazrat Musa^{as}.

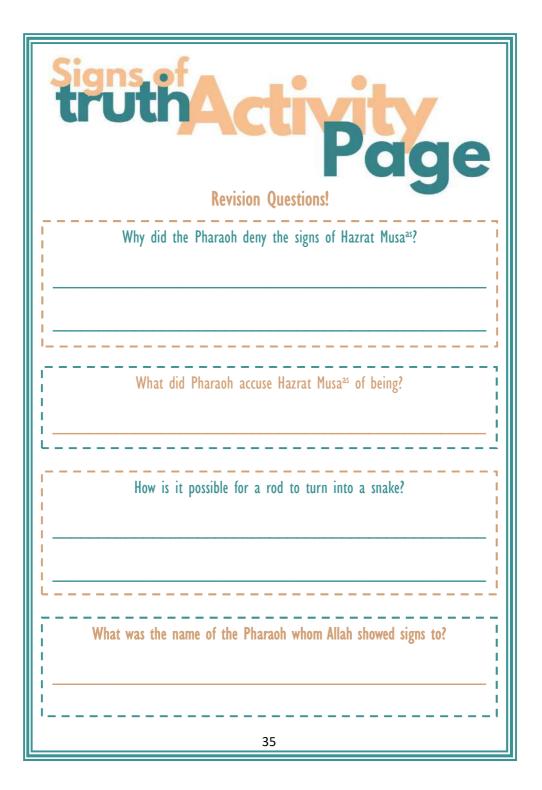
In Surah Al-A'Raf, verse 112, the Holy Quran talks about how the Pharaoh continued to deny Hazrat Musa^{as} and instead called for magicians in the cities.

Pharaoh invited all his skilful magicians to come to him, saying that they will be rewarded with a place near him, if they do better than Hazrat Musa^{as}. The rod of Hazrat Musa^{as}, used with the spiritual force of a great Prophet and thrown at the command of God, exposed the deception on the spectators by the magicians of Pharaoh by overcoming the things which, they had made the people take for real serpents.

The rod quickly exposed the deception created by the magicians. The magicians admitted their defeat and began to believe in Hazrat Musa^{as} and his God, as started in Surah Al-A'Raf, verse 122-123:

And they said, 'We believe in the Lord of the worlds, The Lord of Moses and Aaron'







Across

2. _____ of Darkness- one of the signs 4. The birth place of Hazrat Musa (as)

- 7. Hazrat Musa (as)'s brother
 - 8. The Holy Book which lists
 - 10 of the sings shown
- 9. The colour Hazrat Musa (as)'s hand turned

Down

I. Allah does not contradict His Laws of ...

2. The king who rejected the Signs of Allah

3. The place from which Hazrat Musa (as) returned

5. The name of the tenth chapter of the Holy Quran

6. The animal the rod transformed into

The great punishment on Pharaoh & his people

Pharaoh became determined to kill anyone who came to know about the miracle. He also wanted to kill Hazrat Musa^{as} so that he did not change their religion or cause disorder in the land. To this, Hazrat Musa^{as} replied that **have patience until Allah judges between us. And He is the Best of judges.** The people of Pharaoh were punished with a drought and a lack of fruits as a warning. Whenever, something good happened to the people of Pharaoh, every arrogant person who did not believe in the Day of Judgement would say

"this is for us"

But whenever the people of Pharaoh faced evil they would blame Hazrat Musa^{as} and his people.

The people of Pharaoh said whatever sign you bring to us, we will not submit to you.

In Surah Al-A'Raf, verse 134, it explains that they were sent: Storms, Locusts, Lice, Frogs, and Blood. These were clear signs from Allah on the truthfulness of Harzat Musa^{as}. Yet they still behaved arrogantly and remained sinful.

Dear children, Pharaoh's people had proudly said to Hazrat Musa^{as} that

however great and powerful the Signs he might show, they would never submit to him and never allow the Israelites to go with him.

Then, when the punishment finally fell upon the people of Pharaoh they begged Hazrat Musa^{as} to pray to Allah and ask Him to remove the punishment. They said:

If your Lord will remove the punishment, then the people of Pharaoh will surely believe Hazrat Musa^{as} and they will send the children of Israel to him.

Hazrat Musa^{as} ordered his people to build their houses facing each other. The order to live near each other in a town does not mean that the Israelites lived in the wilderness before this. It is normal for the members of weak minority communities to live together in big towns to help each other. Dear children, God gave Pharaoh and his chiefs many good things of this world but the result was, instead of being thankful to Him for all His favours, they became proud and arrogant. So, Allah the Almighty commanded Hazrat Musa^{as} to lead his people, the Bani Israel out of Egypt.

God said, 'Take My servants away by night; for you will surely be pursued. 'And leave thou the sea at a time when it is motionless. Surely, they are a host that are doomed to be drowned.' How many were the gardens and the springs that they left behind! And the cornfields and the noble places! And the comforts wherein they took delight! Thus it was destined to be. And We made another people inherit these things. And the heaven and the earth wept not for them, nor were they given a respite."

(Chapter 44 verses 24-30).

The people of Pharaoh enjoyed all sorts of comforts and luxury. They had wealth, power and influence.

A prophet came to them. They rejected his Message and opposed his mission with the result that heavenly punishment eventually came down on them suddenly and swiftly. Pharaoh and his followers went to their doom. The illfated monarch who, in his conceit and arrogance, called himself God, went to the depth of the sea.

Pharaoh who wanted to have a look at the God of Hazrat Musa^{as} in the heavens had a taste of His Might in the depths of the sea.



In the end, Pharaoh said that I believe that there is no God but He in Whom the Children of Israel believed. Allah tells us in Surah Baqarah, verse 51 tha when Hazrat Musa^{as} and his people crossed the sea at low tide:

Allah helped Hazrat Musa^{as} cross a difficult path by 'dividing the sea' and saved them, with the Pharaoh and his people drowned.

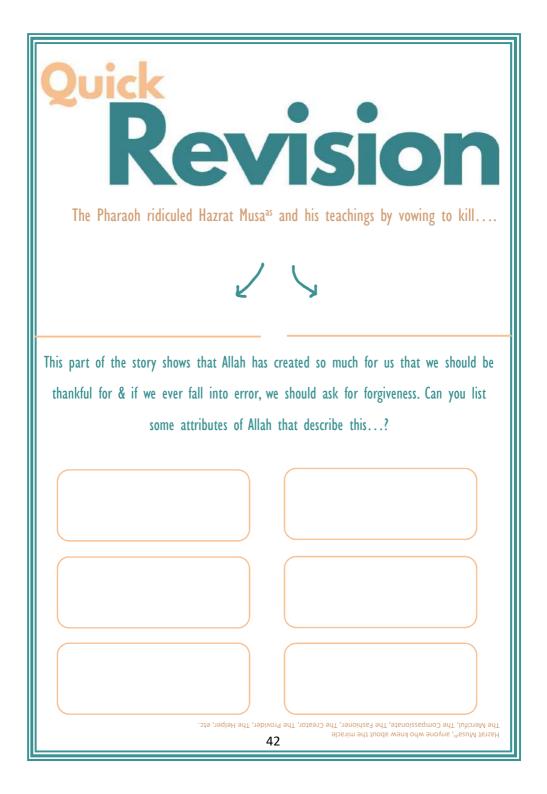
Dear children, when he was drowning, Pharaoh finally accepted the existence of God of Hazrat Musa^{as}, he said:

امَنْتُ ٱنَّهُ لَآالِهَ إِلَّا الَّذِي أَمَنَتُ بِهِ بَنُوْا إِسْرَآءِيْلَ وَأَنَّامِنَ الْمُسْلِيدُ

"I believe that there is no God but He in Whom the children of Israel believe, and I am of those who submit *to Him*."

(Surah Yunus, verse 91)

And so Hazrat Musa^{as} finally left Egypt and took the Children of Israel across the sea to a new home.





Across the sea, Hazrat Musa^{as} and the Israelites travelled through a wilderness. There, Hazrat Musa^{as} was called to go up a mountain for 40 nights.

This is mentioned in Surah Baqarah, verse 52, which explains that Hazrat Musa^{as} spent 40 nights in worship and during this time, his people took the calf and began worshipping it instead.

When Hazrat Musa^{as} arrived at the appointed time and place, he asked Allah if He would show Himself so that Hazrat Musa^{as} could see Him.

The reply Allah gave is written in Surah Al-A'Raf, verse 144, where Allah explains that you cannot see Him, but when you look at mountains, as long as they remain in place, then shall you see Him. This verse sheds light on a most important religious subject - is it possible for one to see God with physical eyes?

The verse shows that God is not visible to physical eyes. Hazrat Musa^{as} wished to see Allah the Almighty but it is impossible for a physical human being to see Allah. To explain this to Hazrat Musa^{as} Allah caused lightening to strike nearby on the mountain. Hazrat Musa^{as} fell unconscious. Allah explained by saying to Hazrat Musa^{as}; how can you even bear to see My full power if you cannot even withstand nearby lightening?

In Surah Al-A'Raf, verses 145-146 of the Holy Quran, Allah the Almighty spoke with Hazrat Musa^{as},

Allah says to Hazrat Musa^{as} that He chose him of all the people of that time to spread His message and His word. So for this Hazrat Musa^{as} should take responsibility and be grateful to be given such as task.

The commandments given to Hazrat Musa^{as} are written on a tablet so those with firm faith and those who are obedient will be separated from the disbelivers. Did you know ..?

The 'tablet' mentioned in this verse is the Law of Moses, given to Hazrat Musa^{as} for the people of his time, which is in the Holy Book, the Torah.

The word "wrote" does not actually mean that God wrote the commandments on the tablet with His own Hand. It was in fact Hazrat Musa^{as} who wrote on the tablets the commandments that were revealed to him on the Mount; but as the commandments were revealed by God, the act of writing has been attributed to Him.

Hazrat Musa^{as} then returned to his people.

"And when Moses returned to his people, indignant and grieved, he said, 'Evil is that which you did in my place in my absence. Did you hasten *to devise a way for yourselves without waiting for* the command of your Lord?' And he put down the tablets, and caught hold of his brother's head,... ...dragging him towards himself. He (Aaron) said, 'Son of my mother, the people indeed deemed me weak, and were about to kill me. Therefore make not the enemies rejoice over me, and place me not with the unjust people.'"

(Surah Al-A'Raf, verse 151).

Because Hazrat Musa^{as} stayed 10 extra nights on the mountain, his followers became impatient and thought that he was lost. When he did get back Hazrat Musa^{as} caught hold of Hazrat Aaron's head because he did not stop people worshipping the calf. As a representative of Hazrat Musa^{as}, Hazrat Aaron^{as} should have been able to stop people from this sort of idol worship. Surah Al-A'Raf, verse 156 explains that Hazrat Musa^{as} asks God during the earthquake (when lightning struck):

> that you could have destroyed us all, including me but you didn't, will you then destroy us all because of the foolish people among us?

Hazrat Musa^{as} lead Bani Israel towards the Holy Land, the land promised to believers, as stated in Surah Al Maidah, verses 22-25.

Verse 22 explains that Hazrat Musa^{as} told his people to enter the Holy Land, as instructed by Allah the Almighty, and to not turn back from this Land as those will be the losers.

Verse 23 includes their reply, where they said that there are powerful people in that land, and that they shall not enter it until they leave.

Finally, verse 24 explains the incident further explaining that two men from among them, who feared their Lord, said that they would enter the gate and do as they were asked. They knew they would be of the victorious if they did this. They said to the others that they put their trust in Allah. But the rebellious remained stubborn and said they will not enter as long as the powerful remain. Dear children, because the followers of Hazrat Musa^{as} did not obey him and his orders and would not enter the Holy Land, he prayed to Allah. This is mentioned in Surah Al-Maidah, verses 26-27:

Hazrat Musa^{as} said to his Lord, that I do not have power over anyone but myself and my brother so distinguish us from the rebellious people. To his Allah reassured him that it will be forbidden for them to enter the Holy Land for 40 years. Allah reassured them not to worry or grieve about the rebellious people.

Because the Israelites behaved in a cowardly manner, God declared that they must continue to wander around the wilderness for 40 years, so that life in the desert should strengthen them and rebuild their morals. During this time, the old generation had nearly all died out and the new generation grew brave and strong enough to conquer the Promised Land. Hazrat Musa^{as} gave an order to Bani Israel to slaughter a cow. They thought that by giving this order, Hazrat Musa^{as} was teasing them because they cared

too much for it. To this Hazrat Musa^{as} replied:

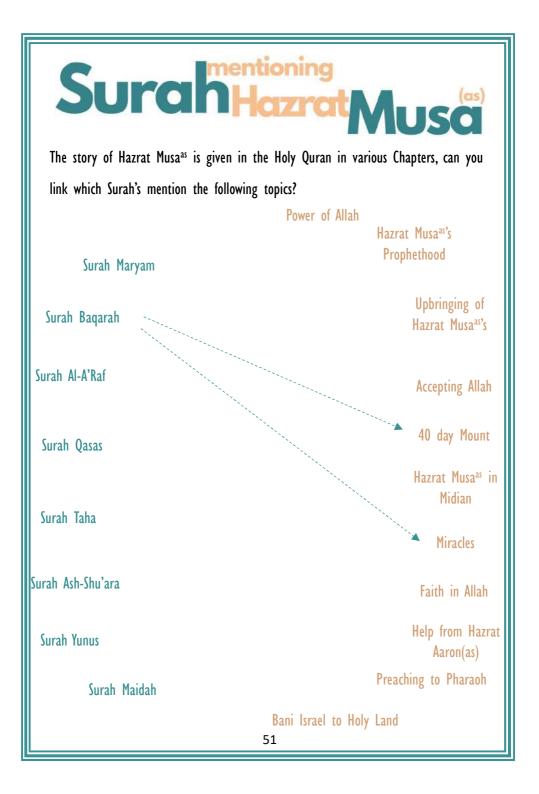


"...'l seek refuge with Allah from being one of the ignorant." (Surah Bagarah, verse 68)

Dear children, this was the story of Hazrat Musa^{as}, a great Prophet sent by Allah the Almighty. A prophet from whose life we can learn lots of examples of how to be steadfast when it comes to believing in the plan of Allah, who taught us prayers that would help us if we learn them and use them in our lives. And most importantly, the story of Hazrat Musa^{as} and his followers shows us that Allah is always very forgiving, provided we ask for forgiveness and then try our best to stay on the right path.

May Allah the Almighty always guide us on the right path and help us to obey all the commands that have been given and described by Him. Amen.

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Can you put the story in the correct order?

He married the daughter of Shuaib Pharaoh is a cruel leader who oppresses people Some baby Israelite boys are buried alive Harat Musaas migrates to Midian He spends 40 days on a mountain He preaches to Pharaoh but is rejected He gets into a fight and accidentally kills someone The Torah is revealed Hazrat Musa^{as} Pharaoh over 10 miracles He returns to Egypt

He is returned to his mother to be his wet nurse

Stories of the Prophets... HAZRAT MUSA (PEACE BE UPON HIM)

Hazrat Musa^{as} is one of the great prophets mentioned in the Holy Quran, in fact, he is mentioned by name over 50 times. Hazrat Musa^{as} was born in Egypt at a time when Pharaoh was the leader. Being a prophet means he was sent to people to teach them about Allah and how to live a pious life. The story of Hazrat Musa^{as} has many interesting lessons. Lets read on to understand his story as given in the Holy Quran.

