

Quran Appreciation

The Story of Samiri (Sura Taha, verses 85-97)

Course Outline

This course will discuss the story of Samiri and the worship of the golden calf by the people of Nabi Musa (a).

The main objectives of the course are to help students:

- become familiar with the story of Samiri from the Quran.
- learn about the seriousness of deviance from belief in One God
- understand how people are led astray
- see how Nabi Musa deals with disappointment and anger.

Each session will include a reading of verses in Arabic and English, an explanation, and its commentary. Cross reference to other verses of the Quran on the same theme may also be explored.

Course Schedule

The following topics will be covered:

- 1) Review; Importance of building a relationship with the Quran and appreciating its contents. Introducing the story of Samiri in brief.
- 2) Verses 85-86. The reaction of Nabi Musa (a) when he hears about his people worshipping a calf. Dealing with disappointment and anger.
- 3) Verse 86. Nabi Musa questions his people.
- 4) Verse 87. The response of the people. Not taking responsibility. Blaming others.
- 5) Verse 88. Samiri - How he led people astray. Cunningness and hypocrisy.
- 6) Verse 89. Worship of the calf.
- 7) Verse 90. Nabi Harun (a) - his position and response.
- 8) Verses 92-94. Conversation of Nabi Musa (a) and Nabi Harun (a).
- 9) Verses 95-97. Conversation of Nabi Musa (a) and Samiri.
- 10) Review and Game.

Main Activity Suggestion

The main activity is conducted for the last 20 minutes of class. Students have fun working on their activity and should complete it by the end of the course. They could work in groups, or with a partner etc. The activity content is based on the passage from the Quran so students should be referring to it as they work. Below is an idea for the main activity. Teachers are free to choose other activities.

Court Case

Students can act out the story of Samiri through a court case involving Nabi Musa vs the people, and/or Nabi Musa vs Samiri, or Nabi Harun (a) - or all three in turn.

You could divide the students into plaintiff, defendant/s, witnesses . . . etc. There would be an opening argument, testimony, closing argument and judgement. Evidence of the crime could be the golden calf and stories of witnesses.

The main body of script would be extracted from the verses of Quran.

The following websites may be helpful:

<http://www.kidsdiscover.com/teacherresources/mock-trial/>

<http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3749996>

Many more websites have examples of mock trials set up as classroom activities.

Please note that judgement in this case will be based on the Quran. Verses 97/98 of Sura Taha could be used as a final judgement.