

The Story of Qarun - An Introduction

Nabi Musa had to struggle against three different powers during his time;

- Firaun, representing power and authority
- Samiri, representing cunningness and deceit
- Qarun, representing wealth and pride

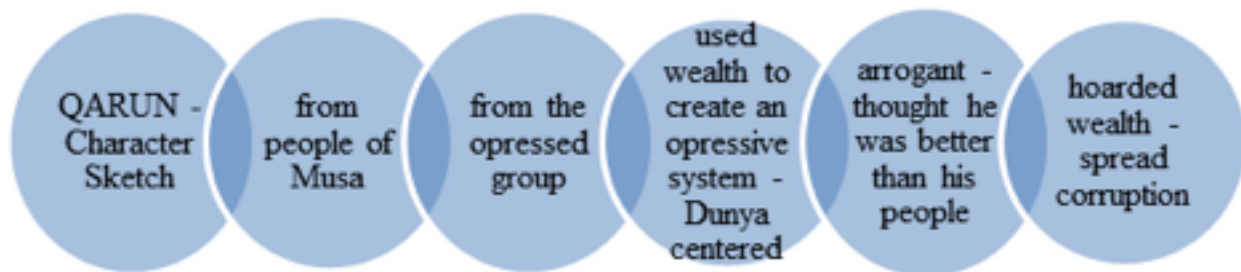
Qarun was from the people of Nabi Musa and was poor in the beginning. He accepted the teachings of Nabi Musa and had faith. He had a beautiful voice and recited the Tawrat very well. Qarun commanded great respect among his people and was one of the seventy men who went with Nabi Musa to the mountain when he received the Tawrat.

Qarun got a little wealth which he was able to multiply and became extremely rich. His wealth was stored in chests which were lifted by a group of forty men, according to some narrations. Slowly his wealth made him arrogant and he began to forget God and his duties towards others. Nabi Musa asked him to pay Zakat, a charity from his wealth that would be given to the poor. He refused and tried to spread false stories about Nabi Musa so other people would also reject him.

Although so many of his people were poor and led miserable lives he built a palace of gold for himself, wore extravagant clothes and mocked the poor and the needy. On Saturdays when people were on holiday he would dress in his best clothes and go out with his servants and show off to the people. Many of the people envied him and wanted to have what he had. The learned people of understanding told him to share his wealth with others and thank God.

Qarun was obsessed with the world. He did not think of the Hereafter and his duty towards God. At the end his wealth was of no use to him. He died when the earth opened up and he was buried alive. This was a lesson for the people who had envied him and wished they had his wealth.

The story of Qarun teaches us about pride and greed, about jealousy and worldliness, about rebellion against God and His teachings, about not giving in charity. And it teaches us that nothing lasts forever in this world, except for the presence of Allah the Almighty.



(Diagram taken from: <http://www.hibamagazine.com/the-pharaoh-his-helper-and-the-rich-man/>)