

## Sūrat al-Qasas Verse 7

وَأَوْحَيْنَا إِلَىٰ أُمِّ مُوسَىٰ أَنْ أَرْضِعِيهِ ۖ فَإِذَا خِفْتِ عَلَيْهِ فَأَلْقِيهِ فِي الْيَمِّ وَلَا تَخَافِي وَلَا تَحْزَنِي ۗ  
إِنَّا رَادُّوهُ إِلَيْكَ وَجَاعِلُوهُ مِنَ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

Q 28:7 *We revealed to Moses' mother, saying, 'Nurse him; then, when you fear for him, cast him into the river, and do not fear or grieve, for We will return him to you and make him one of the Messengers.'*

### Questions for Reflection

- 1) Why was mother of Prophet Mūsā afraid?
- 2) What type of revelation did she get?
- 3) What does Allah (swt) tell her? (2 commands, 2 reassurances and 2 promises)

The sūra begins to tell the story of how the weak can gain victory over the powerful through the help of Allah *subhānahu wata'ālā*. It begins the story of Prophet Mūsā *'alayhis salām*, showing him in the weakest stage of life – a baby who is completely dependent on others. And Fir'awn was at a stage when he was a powerful king with wealth and authority.

When Fir'awn commanded that all baby boys should be killed, he gave strict orders that the birth of all babies should be reported to him. The midwives of Egypt were given instructions to inform him after helping women deliver their babies. The family of Prophet Mūsā were very worried about this. His father Imran and mother Jochebed (pronounced as Jaw-ka-bed, a name found in the Old Testament) already had two children, Maryam and Hārūn, who was two years older than Mūsā. The Quran does not mention the father of Prophet Mūsā in the story of his birth. Historians say that he was taken away by the soldiers of Fir'awn and killed before his son was born.

The mother of Prophet Mūsā delivered her baby with the help of a midwife who she had become friendly with. When the midwife saw the baby, her heart was filled with love for him. The Quran in another verse tells us: *And I cast upon you love, as a gift from Me* (Q 20:39). Those who saw Prophet Mūsā (a) as a baby immediately felt a lot of love for him. The midwife whispered to the mother that she would not report his birth. She asked the mother to be careful that the soldiers of Fir'awn do not become aware of his birth. When the midwife left, the mother was terrified of the soldiers who were patrolling outside. She knew that if they found out they would take the baby away.

At that time when the mother felt helpless and confused, Allah (swt) spoke to her through an inner inspiration (*ilhām*). Allah advised her to:

- 1) Nurse the baby and then put him in the water (2 commands)

- 2) Not fear the outcome nor grieve at the separation (2 reassurances)
- 3) Be assured that He will return the baby to her and make him from the Messengers (2 promises)

The mother felt at peace from the Divine inspiration. Although she had to do a very dangerous thing – go out with the baby and put him in the river – she knew in her heart that her baby was safe. God would look after him. She went to a carpenter to ask him to make a small wooden casket for her. When he inquired what it was for, she told him the truth. She was not used to lying and could not speak falsely. The carpenter decided to tell the guards about it. But when he went up to them a feeling of terror overtook him, and he could not speak; he returned to his home. He tried these two more times, and the same thing happened. He knew then that this was a sign from God. He made the casket and gave it to the mother of Prophet Mūsā (a).

Very early in the morning when people were still asleep the mother came out with the casket. She nursed the baby one last time and put him in the casket. Then she placed it on the waters of River Nile and watched the waves take it away. She was very afraid for him but took comfort in God's words to her.

#### Connecting topics

- 1) A mother's love for a child. (Verses on the mother, see Q 31:14-15 and Q 46:15)
- 2) Negative emotions of fear and grief. How they affect words and behaviour. How to conquer them through trust in God (See Q 3:160 & 173)
- 3) Allah's promises are always fulfilled. (see Q 13:3 & Q 30:36)

Links (Disclaimer: not all information is correct; so, read cautiously)

<https://themuuslimvibe.com/faith-islam/in-practice/fear-patience-and-grief-in-the-holy-quran>

<http://www.asma-lamrabet.com/articles/umm-musa-and-asiyah-free-women/>