

Sūrat al-Qasas
Verse 8

فَالْتَقَطَهُ آلُ فِرْعَوْنَ لِيَكُونَ لَهُمْ عَدُوًّا وَحَزَنًا ۗ إِنَّ فِرْعَوْنَ وَهَامَانَ وَجُنُودَهُمَا كَانُوا خَاطِئِينَ

Q 28:8 *And Fir'awn's family took him up that he might be an enemy and a grief for them; surely Fir'awn and Hāmān and their hosts were wrongdoers.*

Questions for Reflection

- 1) How would Prophet Mūsā(a) be a source of grief for Fir'awn and his family?
- 2) Did they know that when they took him?

Words to focus on

- 1) **التَّقَطُّهُ** – *to find something without any search for it or any effort.* The family of Fir 'awn just happened to find the casket bobbing on the water close to where they were.
- 2) **لِيَكُونَ** – *that he might be.* It is apparent that the family did not take him so he would cause them grief. They thought he would be a source of joy. But they did not know the plan of Allah *subhānahu wata'ālā*. The 'li' here is to show what the end result would be. That they would take the very baby they were afraid of into their own home.

Family of Fir'awn

It was a group from the family of Fir'awn that saw the casket and took the baby. They were completely unaware of where it had come from and who the baby was. By Allah's miracle they did not think of killing him too. On the contrary they wanted to take him home. The Quran says about this in another place: *Then the river will cast it on the bank, and he shall be picked up by an enemy of Mine and an enemy of his* (Q 20:39).

Note how Fir'awn picks up Prophet Mūsā from the river Nile, the same river where he eventually drowns as he tries to pursue the Prophet and his people. God saved a helpless baby from drowning in the same river where a powerful king could not save himself. Fir'awn and his family thought they had received a gift from the river but they had actually received the means to their end.

The wrongdoers

Fir'awn and Hāmān and their armies were wrong doers and had gone astray. Their wrong actions and mistakes were;

- 1) Claiming to be God and ruling over the people.
- 2) Being oppressive and unjust over their people.

- 3) Killing thousands of baby boys to stop the birth of the Prophet.
- 4) Unknowingly taking in the very baby they had sought to kill.

All of them were party to the wrong that was done. The kind who ordered it, the advisor who advised and supported, and the soldiers who carried out the orders.

Connecting topics

- 1) Being mistaken in assumptions about occurrences in life. Another historical story that was not understood by the people at that time was the Peace Treaty of Hudaibiya. See Q 48:1. See: http://en.wikishia.net/view/Hudaybiyya_Peace_Treaty
- 2) Story of the birth of Prophet Mūsā in the Bible.
<https://www.learnreligions.com/birth-of-moses-bible-story-summary-700060>