

## Surat al-Qasas Verses 11-12

وَقَالَتْ لِأُخْتِهِ قُصِّيهِ ۖ فَبَصُرَتْ بِهِ عَنْ جُنْبٍ وَهُمْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ

Q 28:11 *She said to his sister: Follow him. So, she watched him from a distance while they were not aware.*

وَحَرَّمْنَا عَلَيْهِ الْمَرَاضِعَ مِنْ قَبْلُ فَقَالَتْ هَلْ أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ أَهْلِ بَيْتٍ يَكْفُلُونَهُ لَكُمْ وَهُمْ لَهُ نَاصِحُونَ

Q28:12 *And We ordained that he refused to feed at first, so she [his sister] said, 'Shall I show you a household that will take care of him for you and they will be his well-wishers?'*

### Questions for Reflection

- 1) What do you think about the sister of Prophet Mūsā? What must she be feeling at that time?
- 2) Why did the mother not follow her baby herself?
- 3) What made Prophet Mūsā *'alayhis salām* refuse the milk of all the other women?

### The sister of Prophet Mūsā

The mother of Prophet Mūsā was reassured by God and felt calm. After returning home she wanted to know what would happen to her baby; so, she told her daughter to follow and see. She trusted God but that did not mean she did not need to take any action to help her child. Trust in Allah *subhānahu wata'ālā* necessitates action first and then relying on Allah to make it successful. Another lesson this teaches us is that it is important to be watchful and cautious when dealing with wrong doers.

The sister stood a little distance away from the river. She did not want to draw attention to herself and pretended to be just walking by the river. They were not aware that she was watching them. She saw the group pick up the casket from the river and take the baby. She could see their affection for him and knew that the baby was not in danger of being killed.

The baby was hungry and Bībī Āsiya knew that she had to find someone who would breastfeed the baby. She told her maids to look for women who would do that. But the baby refused to feed from anyone who was brought for him. That was God's plan. He had been fed by his mother once and would only accept her milk.

The baby was getting hungrier and the group got more desperate. Then the sister came up with a suggestion – 'I can bring someone who is good and can feed the baby'. They accepted her suggestion and asked her to bring the woman. She went home excitedly and told her mother who then accompanied her to the palace of Fir'awn. The baby accepted to be fed by

her and was returned to his mother. It was a relief for Fir‘awn and his family, and a source of happiness for the family of Prophet Mūsā.

Note how the words ‘they were not aware’ is repeated at the end of verses 9 and 11. It shows that despite his claims of being God, Fir‘awn was completely unaware of things happening near him. How could he claim any power for himself?

In the book ‘*God’s Emissaries: Adam to Jesus*’ the author writes:

Jochebed came and went freely in the palace. She and Āsiya spent considerable time together, and in private they confided in each other. Through Jochebed, Āsiya was able to reconnect with her faith in a way she had longed for since she was forced into marriage, despite the Pharaoh’s eagerness to purge her of it. When Jochebed saw her piety and devotion to God, she confided in her God’s promise to make Moses into a prophet. Together they dreamed secret dreams of a day when he would rise to destroy the Pharaoh.

### Words to focus on

فُصِّيهُ – find out, explore, search. A story is known as قِصَّةٌ as it means finding out news about something.

### Connecting topics

1) Taking initiative. The sister of Prophet Mūsā took the initiative of suggesting that she bring her mother. It is important to go the extra mile in order to be successful. See:

<https://caringmagazine.org/the-importance-of-taking-initiative/>

<https://www.inc.com/dave-kerpen/3-steps-to-develop-more-initiative.html>