

Surat al-Qasas Verses 13

فَرَدَدْنَاهُ إِلَىٰ أُمِّهِ كَيْ تَقَرَّ عَيْنُهَا وَلَا تَحْزَنَ ۚ وَلِتَعْلَمَ أَنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

Q 28:3 *That is how We returned him to his mother so that she might be comforted and not grieve, and that she might know that Allah's promise is true, but most of them do not know.*

Questions for Reflection

- 1) Compare this verse with verse 7. What do you notice?
- 2) Why do people not believe that God's promise is always true?

Prophet Mūsā returns to his mother

The letter 'fa' ف at the beginning of this verse shows that what happened with the sister and the family of Fir'awn was all part of God's plan to return the baby to his mother. That was what He had promised her. The events would unfold accordingly so that His promise would be fulfilled.

The reasons for returning the baby to the mother are given in this verse:

1) So that she may be comforted. *فُرَّةٌ عَيْنٍ* means *delight of the eye* and is a term used to show happiness at the sight of a loved one. The Holy Prophet (s) in Hadīth al-Kisā addresses his grandchildren as *فُرَّةٌ عَيْنِي*. In another Hadith, the Prophet said, "*the delight of my eyes has been made in the prayers* - (جُعِلَ فُرَّةٌ عَيْنِي فِي الصَّلَاةِ). When the time of prayers approached, the Holy Prophet was happy that he will now be direct communication with Almighty God.

Note how the same baby is delight of the eyes (*فُرَّةٌ عَيْنٍ*) for two opposite groups, for the family of Fir'awn (verse 9) and the mother (verse 13)

2) That she may not be sad. Separation from her baby and worry for him would create sadness in the heart of the mother. Allah acknowledges these maternal emotions and helps ease them.

3) That she may know that Allah's promise is true. By getting her baby back she would see a very clear sign of Allah's power and the fulfillment of His promise. The mother of Prophet Mūsā had faith in God and knew in her heart that He would do as He promised. But when she held the baby in her arms she would be convinced as she could now see it happen with her physical senses. It became an *'Aynul Yaqīn* (eye of certainty), different from *'Imul-Yaqīn* (knowledge of certainty).

The baby was returned so that the mother should know that the promises of Allah are all true, and it is not limited to the promise of returning her baby. This is evident from the last

part of the verse which says most people don't know this fact. It is referring not just to this promise, but all promises of Allah.

Although she is the biological mother she is now known as his wet nurse or foster mother. But the title is not important to her. She is relieved at having her baby back with her even if the world thinks she has just been hired for the job.

Tafsīr says that after the period of breast feeding Prophet Mūsā remained in the palace with Fir'awn and his wife and was brought up by them. (see Q26:17, where Fir'awn reminds Prophet Mūsā about the time when he was with them).

God always fulfills His promise. Who would not fulfill a promise?

- one who lacks the ability to do that. God has power over all things.
- one who forgets. God never forgets anything.
- one who does not think fulfilling promises is necessary. For God who is all-Perfect and has the most beautiful names and qualities, fulfilling promises is a noble quality that he possesses and tells human beings to also possess.

If God would break promises, the mission of the Prophets and their encouraging and warning people about their deeds would become meaningless. God could break His promise and not reward/punish them for their deeds.

Connecting verses

- 1) Different stages of Yaqīn – Q102:7
- 2) Emotion and the eyes; happiness - Q28:13, 12:84, fear - Q33:19, sadness - Q9:92.
- 3) Promise of Allah is always true – Q10:55, 14:47

Connecting topics

- 1) Promises of Allah

<https://medium.com/jumah-nugget/5-promises-allah-made-to-the-believers-8dfc76e7b0f2>

- 2) Yaqīn or conviction

<https://www.al-islam.org/imam-ali-s-first-treatise-islamic-ethics-education-qorbani-lahiji/7-strengthen-your-heart-certainty>

<https://www.al-islam.org/forty-hadith-an-exposition-second-edition-imam-khomeini/thirty-second-hadith-conviction-faith>

- 3) Importance of fulfilling promises and avoiding breaking a promise.

<https://www.al-islam.org/greater-sins-volume-2-ayatullah-sayyid-abdul-husayn-dastghaib-shirazi/twenty-first-greater-sin-non>

<https://www.al-islam.org/principles-upbringing-children-ayatullah-ibrahim-amini/chapter-48-keeping-promises>