Story of Musa (alayhi salaam) Part 1

Musa (as) was a great Prophet of Allah. Allah loved Musa (as) dearly, and has mentioned him more than any other Prophet in the Qur’an. Allah even spoke to Musa (as) directly, which is a huge honour. Because of this Musa (as) is also known as ‘Kalimullah,’ which means ‘to whom Allah has spoken.’

Musa (as) as a baby

Musa (as) was born in Egypt, and was a direct descendant of Ibrahim (as). Musa (as) was born into the tribe of Banu Israel, also known as the Children of Israel. The Banu Israel descended from Yusuf (as), who was born in Palestine but later made his home in Egypt.

The Banu Israel are said to have been favoured by Allah. But Pharaoh, the King of Egypt, treated them badly. He was a cruel King and the Banu Israel suffered under his rule.

Once, Pharaoh had a dream that a baby boy would be born into the Banu Israel, and that boy would one day kill Pharaoh. Pharaoh became frightened, and to stop the dream coming true he ordered his soldiers to kill all the baby boys born to the Banu Israel.

After Musa (as) was born, his mother was terrified that Pharaoh’s soldiers would find and kill her baby. But Allah showed Musa (as)’s mother a dream in which He guided her to put him into the River Nile. When Pharaoh’s soldiers came to search the house, Musa (as)’s mother quickly put him into a wooden basket and put the basket into the river. The water carried the baby away. Musa (as)’s mother was scared for her baby, and although it was hard for her to watch him drift away, she believed Allah would look after him.

Musa (as)’s mother sent her daughter to follow the basket. Eventually, the basket washed up from the River Nile right near Pharaoh’s palace. The guards at the palace found the baby and took him to Pharaoh’s wife, Asiyah.

Asiyah was a kind woman and as soon as she saw the baby, she loved him. She asked Pharaoh not to kill the baby and instead to let her adopt him. Pharaoh agreed.

Asiyah sent her maids out to find a wet-nurse who could breast-feed baby Musa (as). Through the will of Allah, Musa (as) rejected all the wet-nurses who came forward. Finally, Musa (as)’s sister came forward and said she knew of a woman who could feed the baby, but kept it a secret that the woman was Musa (as)’s mother.

When Musa (as)’s mother began to feed him, he accepted her milk. Through Allah’s mercy, Musa (as)’s mother, who had placed her trust in Him and watched her baby drift away down the River Nile, was reunited with her child as his wet-nurse. Musa (as) would be taken to his mother’s home everyday so that she could feed him.

Musa (as)’s exile from Egypt
The years passed. Musa (as) lived in Pharaoh’s palace as a prince, and became a big and incredibly strong young man. One time, Musa (as) was walking through town and came across two men who were fighting. One man was from Banu Israel and the other man was an Egyptian. The man from Banu Israel called out to Musa (as) to help. Musa (as) intervened and struck the Egyptian to stop the fight. But, Musa (as) was so strong that the man died from a single blow.

Musa (as) did not mean to hurt the Egyptian. He was filled with deep sorrow and begged Allah to forgive him for what had happened.

The next day, Musa (as) was out walking again and came across the same man from Banu Israel who was fighting with another Egyptian. Again, the man from Banu Israel called on Musa (as) to help. This time, Musa (as) recognised that the man was a troublemaker, and said no to the man. At this comment, the man from Banu Israel deliberately shouted loudly ‘Are you going to kill me like you killed the man yesterday?’

The news quickly reached the Pharaoh that Musa (as) had killed a man. The Pharaoh and his chiefs planned to kill Musa (as) as punishment, but a kind man warned Musa (as) and told him to leave Egypt before he could be arrested.

Musa (as) left Egypt quickly, and travelled to a far away town called Madyan. It was a long and difficult journey. When Musa (as) arrived in Madyan, he saw a well with many shepherds around it, watering their animals. There were two women near the well with their animals but they were not able to get any water because of all the other shepherds pushing before them. Seeing that they needed help, Musa (as) drew water from the well for the two women.

The two women went home to their father and told him what had happened. Their father wanted to reward this kind man and invited Musa (as) to his home and offered him a job. Later, one of this man’s daughters married Musa (as).

Musa (as) spent ten years in Madyan working for his father-in-law. Although he was happy there, he missed his family in Egypt. He wanted to see them again, so he set off on a journey back to Egypt with his wife.

**Allah speaks to Musa (as)**

During the journey back to Egypt, Musa (as) and his family lost their way. They wandered in the dark until they spotted a fire. Musa (as) went to investigate in the hope that the people near the fire would direct him towards Egypt, and perhaps give him some burning wood to keep his family warm.

When Musa (as) approached the fire, he saw that it was actually a burning tree. As the tree burned, it became greener instead of turning to ash. Musa (as) was amazed, and it was at this point that Allah called out to Musa (as) and informed him that he was a Prophet of Allah.

Allah told Musa (as) to go to Pharaoh and invite him to Islam. Pharaoh was evil, and tormented the Banu Israel. Allah wanted Pharaoh to free His servants, and not to behave cruelly toward them anymore.
Musa (as) used to speak with a stammer. He was worried that he would not be able to speak to the people properly, and asked Allah to provide him with support from his brother Harun (as). Allah granted Musa (as) his prayer and strengthened him through his brother. In this way, Musa (as)'s brother, Harun (as), also became a Prophet of Allah.