



سورة الشعراء

The Poets

20 رمضان 1440

26.5.19

Allah will show His izzah on the spot by bringing irresistible aid, without any means, when you are a hair's breadth away from disaster. This is nurturing for you. عزة الله, the honour and might of Allah, is beyond and above any rules and laws. Iblees knew this, so he swore by the might of Allah → فَبِعِزَّتِكَ لَأُغْوِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ → By Your might, I will surely mislead them all (38:82). The magicians used this, but for Firawn, so they said بعزة فرعون. They really believed he was a god. But Allah showed His izzah, they all made sujud to Him, the Lord, the One who nurtures His slaves with His izzah. His might is irresistible, and full of mercy.

Musa عليه السلام was angry, fearful, stammering, but Allah transformed him. He never had an inkling he would be able to talk about deen so confidently. But Allah can make anything possible if you believe in Him. Allah will make a decree to change you, in the same way as Allah moulded Musa → وَأَصْنَعْتَكَ لِنَفْسِي → And I produced you for Myself (20:41).

Firawn threatened Musa عليه السلام with imprisonment in his infamous prison; you would think this is the end of Musa عليه السلام. But Firawn changed, softened, in the nick of time. Think of a speeding car, rushing forward so fast, braking at the very edge of a cliff. This is عزة الله, on the spot. The end result was that everyone saw the truth, the magicians made sujud in public. When Allah wants something to happen, He will extract it. The enemy will become very evil, very rebellious, and this will culminate in the truth being very apparent.

Musa عليه السلام couldn't have shown his staff to the public, without this scenario that Firawn administered. How did the magicians get involved? When Musa عليه السلام showed his signs, Firawn was inspired to accuse him of magic, thereby digging his own grave. His failure was shown to his people by himself. He said ساحر عليم to cover the truth, and these same words served to show the truth. Allah uses the enemies of the truth to show the truth, more than the people of the truth. Everyone is part of the army of Allah, and He uses them as He wishes.

Firawn added some more false information to his accusation, which made him sink deeper into the mire. What he said happened, but only in the way Allah wanted.

What was Firawn feeling? He felt threatened, he was scared, shaken. He felt his authority was being challenged. So he accused Musa of wanting to exile them. He asked his ministers to suggest what they should do next. He gave them important, but actually he would do whatever he wanted. He included everyone in the decision, so they would all deserve the punishment.

We can apply this in the right way by Shura; consult the people close to you, and who are sincere, before you make a decision.

Firawn raised the situation to a national scale; now it affects all of them. He did not want to face it alone. He could have made any decision himself, he didn't need to do his ministers. But he wanted to include them all so that they would all have to share the consequences.

قَالُوا أَرْجِهْ وَأَخَاهُ وَأَبْعَثْ فِي
الْمَدَائِنِ حَاشِرِينَ

They said : Postpone [the matter of] him and his brother and send among the cities gatherers
26:36

The ministers gave two suggestions, which Firawn accepted easily. They suggested that the decision of the fate of Musa and Harun be delayed. Firawn was very angry, this was a personal matter. The ministers were not involved personally, so their suggestions were more balanced, and lighter.

The sword was going to fall on the head of Musa and Harun, they would never have emerged from his torture chambers. Firawn could also have just killed them, and be done with it, but he stopped. The situation was lightened by the suggestions of the ministers. Allah wanted to show His might and mercy.

The ministers also suggested that emissaries be sent to all the cities of Egypt, commanding all the expert magicians to come to the capital city. This was how the miracles of Musa عليه السلام would be accessible for the masses. Musa couldn't have done this, but Firawn set the stage, collecting all the public in an arena, to show the truth to the multitude.

يَأْتُوكَ بِكُلِّ سِحَارٍ عَلِيمٍ

Who will bring you every learned, skilled magician
26:37

Egypt at that time was a vast land, and to collect people from far and wide, was a great achievement. They did not want the ordinary magicians to come, only the expert magicians. Magic has levels, and people take training for it. The expert magicians are the worst, they have the most shayateen to help them. They actually study magic. The more evil the person, the more help he gets from the devils. But at the end it is all illusions. It cannot transform, it can only trick the eyes. It is wicked and ugly, cheating people.

Firawn wanted knowledgeable, well trained and master magicians to defeat Musa, and these very magicians would make sujud! This shows عزة الله. The worst would become the best, in full view of the public, in the middle of the arena. Firawn accused Musa of being ساحر عليم, a knowledgeable magician, and the ministers said they said they would bring ساحر عليم, more expert magicians. Magic was at the highest level in ancient Egypt, it was revered, and they had temples dedicated to the training of magicians.

The magicians who gathered to compete with Musa عليه السلام were great in numbers. By some reports, they were 1200-1500, and some say they numbered 80,000! All of them confronting one Musa. Imagine all 80,000 magicians falling into sujud. Falsehood is abundant, like the foam of the sea. One truthful message can wash it all away.

Musa عليه السلام was not a magician, he had the truth with him.

فَجَمَعَ السَّحَرَةَ لِمِيقَاتِ يَوْمٍ
مَعْلُومٍ

So the magicians were
assembled for the
appointment of a well-
known day
26:38

Firawn took the idea of the ministers and sent the emissaries. This idea appealed to him, to go public. This shows very clearly that وَمَكَرُوا وَمَكَرَ اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ خَيْرُ الْمَاكِرِينَ → And the disbelievers planned, but Allah planned, and Allah is the best of planners (3:54).

The magicians were gathered, on a day which was declared a festival. It became really organized, it was announced to the public that it would be a competition. Imagine the resources needed to accommodate thousands of magicians.

Musa didn't have to do anything, Firawn

arranged everything. This shows the lutf, the gentleness of Allah. Only the authority could have commanded them to come to the capital on an appointed time. Everyone works for the truth, without realizing it. The disbelievers in life are subjected to serve the truth.

We see this in the present day; the more the media maligns Islam, the more they create a curiosity in the minds of people to learn about Islam, and when they do that, they are affected by the truth. So don't be sad when you hear and read the news. Let them do what they want, they are actually serving Islam. Don't retaliate with wrong actions, enjoy the nurturing.

So it was declared a national holiday. Everyone came in the morning, fresh, to see the magic competition. The timing was also important, and Musa عليه السلام chose the best time, as we are informed in Surah Taha.

Firawn didn't command the public to attend the competition, he invited them. He didn't force them, he gave them an option, to maintain the image of a benevolent leader. The people would have come anyway, it was a festival, with entertainment and food.

فَلَنَأْتِيَنَّكَ بِسِحْرٍ مِّثْلِهِ فَاجْعَلْ بَيْنَنَا
وَبَيْنَكَ مَوْعِدًا لَا نَخْلِفُهُ نَحْنُ وَلَا
أَنْتَ مَكَانًا سَوِيًّا

Then we will surely bring you
magic like it, so make
between us and you an
appointment, which we will
not fail to keep and neither
will you, in a place assigned."
قال موعدهم يوم الزينة وأن يحشر
الناس ضحى

[Moses] said, "Your
appointment is on the day of
the festival when the people
assemble at mid-morning."

سورة طه

20:58-59

وَقِيلَ لِلنَّاسِ هَلْ أَنْتُمْ مُجْتَمِعُونَ

And it was said to the
people : Will you
congregate

26:39