

The Lit Cave

Surah Al Kahf

April 4, 2020

Musa AS was given so much knowledge by Allah SWT but there was a person, not a messenger, who had more knowledge than him as well.

In the fitna of the knowledge, it is not about belief or disbelief, but the elevation of it. And the fitna of authority is about the application of your knowledge, like with Dhul Qarnain. These fitnas are about ilm and amal, not about belief and disbelief. It is about upgrading yourself in every situation whether about ilm or amal, knowledge or action.

وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِفَتَاهُ لَا أَبْرَحُ حَتَّىٰ أَبْلُغَ مَجْمَعَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ أَوْ أَمْضِيَ حُقُبًا - 18:60

And [mention] when Moses said to his servant, "I will not cease [traveling] until I reach the junction of the two seas or continue for a long period."

Musa AS was given all the knowledge of the book, but he wanted more because he realized there was someone with more knowledge than him. The story here straightaway begins with Musa AS, with him sets a target for himself, and he finds a companion for this journey. This companion was Yusha ibn Noon, and he traveled and lived with him and when Musa AS died, then he became a prophet.

Musa was determined to travel as much as needed to seek knowledge, despite having Banu Israel. He was motivated to meet someone with knowledge which he did not have. Musa

Musa AS was given knowledge through life examples.

فَلَمَّا بَلَغَا مَجْمَعَ بَيْنَهُمَا نَسِيَا حُوتَهُمَا فَاتَّخَذَ سَبِيلَهُ فِي الْبَحْرِ سَرَبًا - 18:61

But when they reached the junction between them, they forgot their fish, and it took its course into the sea, slipping away.

Allah SWT gave him two signs:

- one is the meeting of two seas
- the other is the fish which they eat as provision will come back to life

These signs weren't for ordinary people but for people who are at a high level of faith. Both require a person to be observant.

Musa AS saw the first sign but missed the second because he fell asleep and his companion saw it but forgot to tell him. It was not the companion's goal or responsibility. There should be longing for knowledge, and of course the goal, and even getting to the place of learning is not easy. Ayaat 60-64 is about how to find this person or place of knowledge subhanAllah.

Here the verb form changes to dual.

The sea is an example of knowledge here, how the knowledge is from the unseen. The second sign was that the water would splash on to the fish, from which they had been eating from, and it would come back to life and swim away.

This shows how knowledge can be upgraded subhanAllah.

فَلَمَّا جَاوَزَا قَالَ لِفَتَاهُ آتِنَا غَدَائِنَا لَقَدْ لَقِينَا مِنْ سَفَرِنَا هَذَا نَصَبًا - 18:62

So when they had passed beyond it, [Moses] said to his boy, "Bring us our morning meal. We have certainly suffered in this, our journey, [much] fatigue."

When they had missed this second sign, and they have detoured from their destination, but just by a short amount when they felt tired and this was from Allah SWT to bring them back. And this short journey tired them out much more, and this was a sign because tiredness means longing has reduced.

Musa AS speaks clearly about what he feels with his companion, and this opens many things and makes choices easy.

قَالَ أَرَأَيْتَ إِذْ أَوَيْنَا إِلَى الصَّخْرَةِ فَإِنِّي نَسِيتُ الْحُوتَ وَمَا أَنَسَانِيهِ إِلَّا الشَّيْطَانُ أَنْ أَذْكُرَهُ
وَاتَّخَذَ سَبِيلَهُ فِي الْبَحْرِ عَجَبًا - 18:63

He said, "Did you see when we retired to the rock? Indeed, I forgot [there] the fish. And none made me forget it except Satan - that I should mention it. And it took its course into the sea amazingly".

Musa's AS companion then spoke, only after Musa AS has spoken and expressed the fact of how he felt. He told Musa AS that at night they went to sleep near a stone, then he saw the water splash on the fish and he saw it swim away into the sea and though it was an amazing scene, he forgot to tell Musa AS. And he said that it was the shaitan who made him forget. Musa AS had only told Yusha about the first sign but not the second sign.

قَالَ ذَلِكَ مَا كُنَّا نَبْغِ فَارْتَدَّا عَلَىٰ آثَارِهِمَا قَصَصًا - 18:64

[Moses] said, "That is what we were seeking." So they returned, following their footprints.

Then Musa AS told Yusha that that was the sign they were looking for and so then they returned, seeking their traces to the place where forgot about the fish, subhanAllah. This was the meeting place for them and Khidr.

These ayaat teach us that we all need to learn, how Musa is humble and how he clarifies, that he had a companion, but did not mention both signs; only one and how sometimes we forgot, but are brought back to what we need. So many lessons and so many signs in these beautiful ayaat!