

The Lit Cave

Surah Al Kahf

April 7, 2020

It is the mid of Shabaan but there is no special worship for this night but just two hadith related to your connection with Allah SWT and connection with people. The focus should be on removing any sort of shirk and removing any grudges or bad feelings about people.

Allah SWT looks at all the people on this night and He forgives all creation except mushrik and mushahin (those who have grudges in their heart).

Allah SWT forgive the believers, and give respite to the disbelievers and leave those who have enmity in their hearts until they leave the enmity.

So in Ayaat 74-76, Musa AS is being taught about decrees and especially those that look evil from the outside but behind it is much mercy and goodness. Musa's story has so many killings - Firaoun killed young, innocent boys, and he killed his wife Asiya, and he also killed the hairdresser and her children. Musa AS killed a man by accident.

Decrees can happen through anyone, but a person should see it is a decree of Allah SWT and all Allah's Actions have mercy in them even if we can't see it. We should not focus on a person's actions but focus on ourselves. The more we question why something happens the way it does, the less we will learn from it.

This is the knowledge Allah SWT gives Musa AS through these experiences. The story finally reaches the peak of intensity in these next few ayaat. It starts with property and then moves to lives - destroying a boat cannot be compared to the killing of an innocent boy. What this teaches us is the Permission of Allah SWT (iradatAllah) - if something bad happens then we attribute it ourselves, and when something good happens we attribute it to Allah SWT. And we can only learn about iradatAllah when we are patient.

In ayah 74, intalaqa implies a mission and hatta implies a goal or destination. So both Khidr and Musa proceed and then something occurs and they stop. Moments in our lives keep passing until something comes to disrupt it - we should keep going and not fall into fitna. Musa and Khidr came across a young boy whom Al Khidr killed. Imagine how difficult this must be for Musa AS to witness the killing of an innocent boy be killed as though Musa AS is taken back to his own story.

Musa asks Khidhr how he could kill a pure, innocent soul without a purpose and this would be unacceptable (nukra) by anyone. He acts as a judge in this, but we cannot judge anyone, just ourselves. He couldn't be patient because the intensity of Khidr's actions just went up.

Khidr's reply is the same* except that he adds one word, laka, means for you - this indicates his anger at the lack of patience. *[This is a lesson for teachers to keep their teaching and wordings constant so a person can come back, use it as an anchor.] Khidr is a slave of Allah who was blessed with the knowledge of decrees. He is not doing anything out of his own wants but by Allah's Permission alone. Musa AS approached Khidr as a teacher but Khidr is the one who terminates their time together.

Musa AS told him "If I ask you again then do not accompany me", so the teacher is the one who asks the student to leave - the teacher ends the knowledge journey, this is the appropriate thing. A student should never leave his teacher, his journey. Musa AS gave Al Khidr his due respect and position. It is important to be respectful to the teacher. 'Ilm has its own fitna, but it is very important for a student to appreciate and be grateful to have a teacher and to be able to learn.

So Musa replies that he had given you an excuse to leave me. Al Khidr is a tough teacher for Musa AS and he humbles himself in front of him. We are all learning with the permission of Allah SWT alone, and we should appreciate this and be so grateful for it, especially in these times. We need to remember Allah SWT, to do things with ihsan, to appreciate the companionship that we have been blessed with.