

The Lit Cave

Surah al Kahf

April 8, 2020

Knowledge is light but there is also fitna of this knowledge, even though knowledge is light. The light we are given should never be used to burn others, judge others. When Allah SWT favors us with knowledge we should work on being patient and kind with other people.

Musa AS was taken care of, once he was favored with knowledge and wisdom - even before being given the Torah - when he was being raised in the house of the Firawn. His mother was brought to feed him, subhanAllah, in the house of the enemy and he was made from among the muhsineen.

Many things happened to Musa AS in which he had no choice when he was a baby, and Allah SWT nurtured him until he came upright, and through Khidr AS, Allah SWT shows Musa AS how he doesn't have patience through the three stories.

The first story is about the ship, when Khidr AS makes a hole in it - an action that looks bad. Which is like Musa AS's mother throwing him in a basket into the river.

The second story was the killing of an innocent boy where Khidr AS's act is similar to when the Firawn who was killing innocent boys. This served as a means for Musa AS to become a messenger.

The third story is about a town that did not accommodate them, but Khidr AS still helped them. This act was like when Firawn took care of Musa AS.

These stories teach us to never judge any person or any action. Just as the dead fish comes alive and goes back into the sea, we are a "live" example of our past.

Ayah 77

فَانطَلَقَا حَتَّىٰ إِذَا أَتَيَا أَهْلَ قَرْيَةٍ اسْتَتَعَمَا أَهْلَهَا فَأَبَوْا أَنْ يُضَيِّقُوا هُمَا فَوَجَدَا فِيهَا جِدَارًا يُرِيدُ أَنْ يَنْقُضَ فَأَقَامَهُ قَالَ لَوْ شِئْتَ لَاتَّخَذْتَ عَلَيْهِ أَجْرًا

So they set out, until when they came to the people of a town, they asked its people for food, but they refused to offer them hospitality. And they found therein a wall about to collapse, so al-Khidhr restored it. [Moses] said, "If you wished, you could have taken for it a payment."

This is the last scene between Musa AS and Khidr because then they go their separate ways. Musa AS has to decide his next step.

This is to show our life is also divided into two, one part is our past when we do not have a choice - we are impatient. The second is when we have knowledge and wisdom, and can make decisions.

All three stories are similar in this, don't look at the actions or the people. In the first two stories, it appears that Khidr AS does something bad to those who were good people and in this one, he does something good to people who are not worthy. The lesson here is to not judge because it is not about the act or the people, but the future that will come from these actions.

The right of travelers is that they are given food, if they ask for it, so when Musa and Khidr AS go to this town the people refuse to accommodate them. One might think that these people are bad, and this is what Musa AS does, judge the people for their action. So when they find a wall, and Khidr AS repairs it as it is falling apart and Musa AS says he could have asked for credit or wages etc.

This is like in Musa AS's life, when he was hungry as a baby, in need of food. And Firawn, a bad person, took him in and found someone to feed him. This is like Musa AS who ate from a fish that went back into the sea so he is seeing his past come in through these decrees.

The lesson we learn from this is again to not judge the people whom we will face in the future either.

Ayah 78

قَالَ كَذَا فِرَاقُ بَيْنِي وَبَيْنِكَ سَأُنَبِّئُكَ بِتَأْوِيلِ مَا لَمْ تَسْتَطِعْ عَلَيْهِ صَبْرًا

[Al-Khidhr] said, "This is parting between me and you. I will inform you of the interpretation of that about which you could not have patience.

When Musa AS tells Khidr about wages/credit, Khidr tells him that this is the parting between them based on what Musa AS had told him earlier. That if he asked anything else, then Khidr AS would leave him.

If Musa AS had been more patient, we might have learned even more from these stories, according to what Nabi SAW said. So this is our lesson as well, we will face many things, but we have to be patient because all these actions serve to make us upright. Khidr AS then explains to him all his actions.

We are also always judging or commenting and giving suggestions about things we have no idea about. In reality, when we submit and are patient, then we learn more. Knowledge is an upgrade for us, and we should not use it to judge or look down upon people.