

## Prophet Musa (A) and Khidhr (A)

### **Learning objectives:**

- **To learn about journey undertaken by Prophet Musa (A) in his quest to find Khidhr (A).**

Before we go further into the exile of Prophet Musa (A) from Egypt, let us step back and look at a very important event in the life of Prophet Musa (A), which took place while he was still a prince. As we learned from previous lessons, Pharaoh had become suspicious of Prophet Musa (A) and was starting to feel that adopting him was a bad idea. Therefore, Pharaoh kept looking for ways to have Prophet Musa (A) killed without being directly responsible for it.

One narrations states that Pharaoh decided to send Prophet Musa (A) on a mission to find the origins of the river Nile. This task was considered very difficult as this meant that Prophet Musa (A) would have to travel through difficult terrain and take on a very long journey. Previous men who had taken on this mission did not come return.

There was also another possibility why Prophet Musa (A) went on this journey. He was inspired by Allah (SWT) to go to a place where two rivers meet and find a man who will teach him. Prophet Musa (A) had already been granted ‘*hukm*’ (judgement/ wisdom) and ‘*ilm*’ (knowledge) as a mercy from Allah (SWT). However, Allah (SWT) wanted to increase Prophet Musa (A)’s wisdom and knowledge; hence, He (SWT) sent Prophet Musa (A) on the mission to find a man who was given great knowledge and wisdom.

### **Reflection:**

Why do Prophets also have to learn more during their lives?

The Qur’an answers this question in the following verse:

...وَفَوْقَ كُلِّ ذِي عِلْمٍ عَلِيمٌ

**...and above every man of knowledge is One who knows best. [12:76]**

The close servants of Allah (SWT) always learn from each other. An example of this is Imam Ali (A). Even though he possessed knowledge and wisdom, he still learned a lot from the Holy Prophet (S), which, of course, helped him grow spiritually.

Therefore, always be open to learning no matter how much knowledge you already feel you have. As the Qur’an states, there is always someone more knowledgeable than you!

The story of the meeting of Prophet Musa (A) with Khidhr (A) begins in Surah Kahf (18:60):

وَإِذْ قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِفَتَاهُ لَا أَبْرَحُ حَتَّىٰ أَبْلُغَ مَجْمَعَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ أَوْ أَمْضِيَ حُقُبًا

**And when Musa said to his servant: I will not cease until I reach the junction of the two rivers or I will go on for years.**

Prophet Musa (A)’s servant told him that they should just leave this mission and go back. How will they find the ‘meeting of the two waters’ and find a man from whom Prophet Musa (A) has to learn from? Prophet Musa was very determined to find this man. The term ‘*huqubah*’ means 80 years which is equal to a

lifetime. Therefore, Prophet Musa (A) was either going to find this man or spend his entire life looking for him.

### **Reflection:**

Prophet Musa (A) was determined to spend his entire lifetime in search for this knowledge. Why was he so adamant?

Prophet Musa (A)'s determination is just an indication of how important it is to seek knowledge. He understood the **importance of knowledge** and was willing to go to any lengths to gain it. The knowledge that Khidhr (A) was to provide him was worth spending a lifetime searching for.

How often are we determined to spend our time in the search of knowledge and wisdom? How often do we concentrate and focus on attaining the knowledge that is provided to us in school and Madressa? How much do we enjoy learning?

فَلَمَّا بَلَغَا مَجْمَعَ بَيْنَهُمَا نَسِيَا حُوتَهُمَا فَاتَّخَذَ سَبِيلَهُ فِي الْبَحْرِ سَرَبًا

***So when they had reached the junction of the two (rivers) they forgot their fish, and it took its way into the sea, going away. [18:61]***

Prophet Musa and his servant were looking for a sign that would guide them to Khidhr (A). So when they reached the meeting of the two rivers, the servant saw the fish they were carrying for their meal come out of the container it was kept in and made its way to the sea. The servant saw this; however, he fell asleep, thought it was all a dream and forgot to tell Prophet Musa (A).

فَلَمَّا جَاوَزَا قَالَ لِفَتَاهُ آتِنَا غَدَاءَنَا لَقَدْ لَقِينَا مِنْ سَفَرِنَا هَذَا نَصَبًا

***But when they had gone farther, he said to his servant: Bring to us our morning meal, certainly we have met with fatigue from this our journey. [18:62]***

'...we have met with fatigue from this our journey' - this is an indication on how difficult and long the terrain was that they had to travel. (Attached in a map that shows the possible journey undertaken by Prophet Musa (A) and his servant).

قَالَ أَرَأَيْتَ إِذْ أَوْيْنَا إِلَى الصَّخْرَةِ فَإِنِّي نَسِيتُ الْحُوتَ وَمَا أَنسَانِيهِ إِلَّا الشَّيْطَانُ أَنْ أَذْكُرَهُ ۚ وَاتَّخَذَ سَبِيلَهُ فِي الْبَحْرِ عَجَبًا

***He (the servant) said: Did you see when we took refuge on the rock then I forgot the fish, and nothing made me forget to speak of it but the Shaitan, and it took its way into the river; what a wonder!***

قَالَ ذَلِكَ مَا كُنَّا نَبْغُ ۚ فَارْتَدَّا عَلَى آثَارِهِمَا قَصَصًا

***He said, 'That is what we were after!' So they returned, retracing their footsteps.***

This incident was to show how difficult it was for Prophet Musa (A) to find this man.

**Reflection:**

Why does Allah SWT make things difficult? Why couldn't Khidhr (A) just come to Prophet Musa (A) and teach him?

The main reason is that Allah (SWT) wanted Prophet Musa to appreciate knowledge and value it. If we are given knowledge without any effort, we do not value it. How often do you wake up in the morning and say 'Alhamdulillah' I am going to school today to gain knowledge? How many times do we complain about going to school and the amount of 'work' we have to do at school? We are very fortunate to be able to access knowledge very easily however how grateful are we for this knowledge?

Prophet Musa (A) set an example to show us the value of knowledge and to appreciate it.

This is a map that looks at the possible origins of the Nile. The White Nile and the Blue Nile meet in Sudan's capital Khartoum. This could *possibly* be the place where Prophet Musa (A) met Khidhr (A). It can be seen that there are many places where two rivers meet, so it was very hard for Prophet Musa (A) to determine where exactly was he going to meet Khidhr (A). We cannot know for sure where exactly they met; however, this map gives a rough idea about the long journey taken by Prophet Musa (A).

