

Prophet Moses (pbuh), Part 6

“Go forth, you and your brother with My signs, and never falter in remembering Me. Go, both of you, to Pharaoh, for he has truly transgressed [all bounds]. Speak to him gently, so perhaps he may be mindful [of Me] or fearful [of My punishment].” (Qur’an 28:42-44).

When God commanded Moses and his brother Aaron (peace be upon them) to approach Pharaoh, He instructed them to speak gently. This is striking: God the Almighty, the Most Merciful and the Most Gracious, commanded two of His greatest prophets to address Pharaoh — a ruler who not only oppressed people, but even claimed to be a god — with kindness and gentleness. Such a directive beautifully reflects the depth of God’s mercy, reminding us that if God calls for compassion even toward those who oppose Him, His own mercy and grace are truly beyond measure and worthy of our trust.

Moses continued his journey and reached Egypt, where he met his brother Aaron (Haroon, pbuh). He shared with Aaron the mission entrusted to him by God, the Almighty, and how he had prayed to be joined by Aaron as a fellow prophet to share this great responsibility. Both brothers bowed in submission to God and prayed earnestly, expressing their fear that the Pharaoh might retaliate harshly. They feared he might use his unchecked power to torture or even kill them. The Qur’an poignantly captures this moment: **They both pleaded, ‘Our Lord! We fear that he may be quick to harm us or act**

tyrannically.’” (Qur’an 20:45). In response, God reassured them: **Allah reassured them, ‘Have no fear! I am with you, hearing and seeing. So go to him and say, Indeed, we are both messengers from your Lord, so let the Children of Israel go with us, and do not oppress them. We have come to you with a sign from your Lord. And peace be with whoever follows the [right] guidance.’** (Qur’an 20:47).

These verses reveal the heart of Moses and Aaron’s mission: to invite Pharaoh to believe in the one true God and to liberate the Children of Israel from slavery in Egypt. God Himself extends His peace and blessings to all who follow the righteous path, highlighting the inclusiveness and divine mercy embedded in their prophetic calling. This message of peace requires us to respond, “Oh God, you are the peace, from you comes the peace, Ealted always you are.”

It is indeed fascinating to note that the salutation “Peace be with you” is a shared greeting across Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. In Islam, this greeting is expressed as “As-Salamu Alaykum,” meaning “Peace be upon you.” This phrase is much more than a simple hello; it is a heartfelt prayer for peace, security, and divine blessings upon the person addressed. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) emphasized the significance of this greeting as a means to foster love, unity, and brotherhood among people.

Remarkably, Jesus (pbuh) used the same salutation when he greeted



Guest
Column

HATIM HEGAB

his disciples, as recorded in Luke 24:36: “Jesus said to them: peace be unto you.” This common greeting beautifully symbolizes the shared foundation of God’s messages in these faiths, underscoring the unity and continuity of the divine truth revealed through different prophets. Since both Jesus and Muhammad (pbu them) received their revelations from the same unchanging God, it is only fitting that this salutation—invoking peace—remains a timeless bridge connecting their teachings and encouraging harmony among all believers.

Moses and Aaron were also commanded to warn Pharaoh of the consequences that befall those who show arrogance and reject the truth. The Qur’an states clearly: **Say to the Pharaoh: ‘It has indeed been revealed to us that the punishment will be upon whoever denies the truth and turns away.’** (Qur’an 20:48). From these words, we understand that God, the Almighty, sent two great prophets to confront a tyrant whose cruelty exceeded all before him—who even ordered the killing of newborn Israelite boys—to guide him toward the path of truth and warn him of severe divine punishment. Throughout history, and as this series has shown, God has continually sent messengers to lead people

away from Satan’s deceitful path that leads to destruction. Yet, arrogance and pride have caused many to turn away. Remarkably, all prophets shared a common trait: they asked for no worldly rewards, whether financial or social, for their calls. They emphasized that they were chosen solely to convey God’s message and to guide people away from Satan’s enmity. They warned their communities about Satan’s hatred and the deep grudges he holds against the children of Adam.

Moses and Aaron set out to meet Pharaoh, tasked with delivering God’s message. They were fully prepared, empowered by the signs and miracles granted to them by the Almighty, and assured that no harm would come their way. This divine protection is remarkable and serves as a testament to the power and support bestowed upon them. The Qur’an highlights this assurance when it says: **By virtue of Our signs, the two of you and those who follow you will be the victors.** (Qur’an 28:35).

Pharaoh was known for his unparalleled tyranny, yet despite his cruelty and threats, he was unable to harm Moses and Aaron. This undeniable protection was itself a profound sign meant to convince Pharaoh and his people of the truth behind Moses and Aaron’s mission. We will soon see how the unfolding events demonstrate the miraculous nature of their call and the divine power backing it.

Now comes the pivotal encounter between Moses and his brother Aaron on one side, and Pharaoh with his court on the other.

When Pharaoh heard their message, he questioned: **Who then is the Lord of you two, O Moses?** (Qur’an 20:49). Moses confidently replied, **Our Lord is the One Who has given everything its form and then guided it.** (Qur’an 20:50). Pharaoh pressed further, seemingly searching for a flaw in their message, asking: **And what about the previous peoples?** (Qur’an 20:51). Moses was prepared and responded wisely: **That knowledge is with my Lord in a Record. My Lord neither errs nor forgets.** (Qur’an 20:52).

This response is masterful because Moses did not allow Pharaoh to divert the discussion from the core mission: to guide Pharaoh to worship God alone and to free the Children of Israel from bondage in Egypt. This clarity and focus highlight the prophetic determination amid a challenging confrontation.

Moses, continually reminding Pharaoh of God’s blessings and miracles, declared: **[He is the One] Who has laid out the earth for [all of] you, and set in it pathways for you, and sends down rain from the sky, causing various types of plants to grow, [so] eat and graze your cattle. Surely, in these are signs for people of sound judgment. From the earth We created you, and into it We will return you, and from it We will bring you back again.** (Qur’an 20:53-55).

In these verses, Moses reminds Pharaoh and his advisors that all their sustenance—the land, water, and vegetation—are divine blessings from the Almighty. This raises a pertinent question: if Pharaoh

claimed to be a god, what blessings did he truly bestow upon his people? The truth is, Pharaoh falsely declared himself the owner of the rivers and land, yet these were under the control of his predecessors, not his own.

Another important observation is that none of Pharaoh’s ministers, courtiers, or advisors participated in the dialogue. They were present solely to support Pharaoh’s claims, illustrating how tyrants often surround themselves with sycophants benefiting from the prevailing corrupt system. Throughout history, divine signs and prophecies, such as these miracles, serve to remind us that those who oppose God’s truth cannot truly establish lasting power.

What was Pharaoh’s answer? He declared boldly: **Verily, your Messenger who has been sent to you is a madman!** (Qur’an 20:56). This response is fascinating because it reveals Pharaoh’s acknowledgment that Moses was indeed a messenger from God and possessed miracles. Yet, having no logical defense, the Pharaoh resorted to insult and attempted to change the subject—one of the most common tactics used by those facing defeat in debate. Calling one’s opponent mad is a way to dismiss the truth without engaging with it sincerely. This episode exemplifies how arrogance blinds individuals to the clear truth and how denial is often coupled with ad hominem attacks.

Author: hatim.hegab@gmail.com

Information: <https://icstillwater.org>