

Love in the Qur'an

The Prophet Moses, peace be upon him (pbuh), was born in Egypt to an Israelite family, a descendant of Jakob's 12 sons who came to Egypt after Joseph became a minister (or the prime minister). He was born in the year when the Pharaoh ordered all Israelite male children killed. Guards and agents would move around the streets to register the names of pregnant women, and they would come and check their babies' sexes and kill the boys of them. The Prophet Moses (pbuh) miraculously escaped this fate, and so did his brother Aaron. This story could be the subject of another article.

Moses (peace be upon him) grew up in Pharaoh's palace until he reached young adulthood. On one occasion, he defended one of his clans and unintentionally killed a man, an Egyptian. He repented to God, and God forgave him (Moses was told about this later when he talked to God, the Almighty). The Egyptian authorities identified Moses as the perpetrator and decided to arrest and execute him. However, a man within the government who was aware of their plan hurried to warn Moses and advised him to flee. He specifically urged Moses to leave, as stated in the Noble Quran: "Then there came a man rushing from the farthest

end of the city, and said, 'O Moses, the chiefs are conspiring to kill you, so leave. I am giving you sincere advice.'" [Quran 28: 20]. Moses (peace be upon him) departed almost immediately, as indicated in the following verse, "So he left the city, fearful and vigilant. He said, 'My Lord, save me from the wrongdoing people.'" [Quran 28: 21]. This verse suggests that he left hastily, with little preparation, taking almost nothing with him.

The Quran continues, "When he headed towards Midian, he said, 'My Lord will surely guide me to a straight way.'" [Quran 28: 22]. Still filled with fear, he appeared weary from his long journey, tired and hungry. As he was resting, something caught his attention. The Quran narrates, "When he arrived at the well of Midian, he found a crowd of people watering [their flocks] and found apart from them two women holding [their flocks] back. He said, 'What is the matter with you?' They said, 'We cannot water [our flocks] until the shepherds take [their flocks] away, and our father is a very old man.'" [Quran 28: 23] This scenario required contemplation. A young man fleeing for his life, with nothing but the clothes on his body, encounters two women standing



Guest Column

HATIM HEGAB

apart from the other shepherds, safeguarding their flock from mingling with others, possibly to avoid disputes over ownership. Some scholars suggest that the well's cover was typically too heavy for one person to lift, but Moses (peace be upon him) managed to remove it alone, watering the women's flock, and then replaced it by himself afterward.

Many writers and scholars have analyzed this verse. Some argue it serves as a clear indication of women's roles in that era, suggesting they were free to leave their homes for work. Conversely, others contend that their response highlights why they had to venture out; their father, typically responsible for watering the flock, was too old to fulfill the task. The Quran says that both women responded with the same phrase as if they were explaining why they were out. The verse is rich in meaning and lessons, sparking numerous studies into the historical context. Moses (peace be upon him) approached the two women

directly, suggesting that he had observed something unusual and demonstrating his helpful and kind-hearted nature. He didn't hesitate to engage with them despite the risk of being recognized by some guards or authorities of the city. Additionally, it shows they spoke the same language.

The Quran continues, "So he watered [their flocks] for them, then he turned to the shade and said, 'My Lord, I am desperately in need of whatever good You may send down to me.'" [Quran 28: 24] This passage confirms our earlier observation that Moses left hastily without any resources or preparation. It also reveals his constant prayer and reliance on God, the Almighty.

Then we find Moses (peace be upon him) resting in the shade of a tree, uncertain of his next steps. The Quran continues, "Then one of the two women came to him, walking modestly. She said, 'My father is inviting you so that he may reward you for watering [our flocks] for us.' When he came to him and told him the whole story, he said, 'Have no fear. You are now safe from the wrongdoing people.'" [Quran 28: 25]. One might wonder how the father knew Moses was safe from harm. The most plausible explanation is

that Midian fell outside the jurisdiction of the Egyptians, meaning neither the authorities nor any other security entity posed a threat to Moses. Then, an unexpected event occurred.

The Quran continues, "One of them [the two daughters] said, 'O father, hire him; the best one you can hire is strong and trustworthy.'" [Quran 28: 26] Several points arise from this verse. Firstly, which daughter made the suggestion? Secondly, why did she make this suggestion? And finally, how did she discern that Moses (peace be upon him) was strong and trustworthy? The daughter who addressed her father is likely the one who recognized Moses' strength and trustworthiness. Both women witnessed him single-handedly removing the well's cover, indicating his strength, but only one approached him to summon him to their home. Many scholars suggest that Moses asked this woman to walk beside him to shield her from accidental exposure if the wind stirred her clothing. Therefore, it's reasonable to assume that the daughter who made the suggestion is the one who went to call him. She had seen how strong he was and also how trustworthy he was. But why would she propose hiring him? Firstly, they

were likely uncomfortable leaving their home daily to mingle with men while tending to their flock. Secondly, she might have been reluctant to see such a strong, honest, trustworthy young man depart. She could perceive these qualities as making him an ideal companion with whom a woman would feel loved and secure.

The father's response to her suggestion was as follows, as mentioned in the Quran: He said, "I would like to give you one of these two daughters of mine in marriage, provided that you serve me for eight years; if you complete ten, it will be of your own free will. I do not want to make things difficult for you. You will find me, if Allah wills, from among the righteous." [Quran 28: 27]. The father swiftly noticed his daughter's fondness for the young man and responded accordingly. It is commonly believed that the father in this story is none other than the Prophet Shu'ayb.

In just seven verses, we learn about Moses' escape, morals, behavior, and, more importantly, what women usually look for in a man.

To contact the author: hatim@gmx.us

For more information, please visit: www.icstillwater.org/islam

Expanding clergy sexual abuse probe targets New Orleans Catholic church leaders

NEW ORLEANS — Authorities have expanded an investigation of clergy sexual abuse in the Roman Catholic Church in New Orleans to include senior church officials suspected of shielding predatory priests for decades and failing to report their crimes to law enforcement.

Louisiana State Police carried out a sweeping search warrant last week at the Archdiocese of New Orleans, seeking a long-secreted cache of church records and communications between local church leaders and the Vatican about the church's handling

of clergy sexual abuse.

The search signaled a new phase of the investigation that will seek to determine what particular church leaders, including Archbishop Gregory Aymond and his predecessors, knew about claims that the warrant describes as "ignored and in many cases covered up."

"The Archdiocese of New Orleans has been openly discussing the topic of sex abuse for over 20 years," Bill Kearney, an archdiocese spokesman, said in a statement. "In keeping with this, we also are committed to working

with law enforcement in these endeavors."

The warrant contained several new details about the sex-trafficking investigation, including claims that some victims were sexually assaulted in a seminary swimming pool after being ordered to "skinny dip." Separately, the warrant says, predatory priests developed a system of sharing victims by giving them "gifts" that they were instructed to pass on to clergymen at other schools or churches.

"It was said that the 'gift' was a form of signaling to another

priest that the person was a target for sexual abuse," state police investigator Scott Rodrigue wrote in an affidavit in support of the warrant.

The warrant sought an exhaustive range of personnel records, "files contained in any and all safes" and documents showing the extent to which the archdiocese continued supporting clergymen even after they were added to the so-called credibly accused list of suspected predators.

The warrant also confirmed a parallel FBI examination of clergy sexual abuse reported by The

Associated Press nearly two years ago. That investigation has examined whether priests took children across state lines to molest them.

The Vatican did not respond to a request for comment Wednesday and rarely weighs in on developments in local clergy abuse cases.

To date, the Vatican still has not required abuse cases to be reported to police around the world, though it now says local church leaders should comply with whatever civil reporting laws are in place.

— AP

Worship at the church of your choice this week

Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you,



Exodus 23:25

Stillwater Bible

Proclaiming Christ, Training Believers

JB Bond, Senior Pastor

Sundays

Worship Service 8:30 a.m.

G.R.O.W. Groups 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Kids' Church 11:20 a.m.

Tuesdays

Cornerstone @ The Union (RM 297) 7:30 p.m.

Wednesdays

Stillwater Bible Institute 6:30 p.m.

Impact Youth 6:30 p.m.

Bible Kids 6:30 p.m.

7617 W. 6th Ave.

Stillwaterbible.org (405) 564-5794

Crosspointe

CHURCH

Sunday School - 9:30

Sunday AM Worship - 10:30

Sunday PM Family Service - 6:00

Wed PM Bible Study - 7:00

1807 N. Jardot

gocrosspointe.com

FIRST BAPTIST

CHURCH

701 S. DUNCAN • 405-372-5212

SUNDAY

Bible Study • 9:30am

Worship Service • 11:00am

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Begin at 6:00pm

Watch our worship service on Facebook

www.fbcstillwater.org

FIRST UNITED

METHODIST CHURCH

www.fumcstw.org

400 W. 7th • 372-5854

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship.....8:30am & 11:10am

Sunday School.....10:00am

Closer Walk.....10 am Family Life Center

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS

BAPTIST CHURCH

4th & Knoblock • 372-2744

Sunday School

9 am

Worship Service

8 am & 10:30 am

GRACE BAPTIST

CHURCH

Independent Baptist

Expository Preaching

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 10:30am

Thursday 7:30pm

723 E. 17th

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

524 S. Duncan • 405-372-5580

www.stillwaterfpc.org

Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - in person, online

On KSPI radio AM 780 & FM 94.3

and the Stillwater FPC Facebook page

Sunnybrook

Christian Church

421 E. Richmond Rd • 377.0923

www.sunnybrookcc.org

SUNDAY SERVICE

9:45 am

11:15 am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:30 am

9:45 am

KIDS CHURCH 9:45 & 11:15 am

GO • GATHER • GROW

Stillwater

Church of Christ

stillwatercoc.org

Your place for

"Faith, Family and Friends"

SUNDAY

Meeting Times

Bible Study.....9:30 AM

Worship.....10:30 AM

Bible Study.....5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible study.....7:00 PM

821 N. DUCK • 372-7439

Southside Baptist

Church of Stillwater

1223 S. Perkins Rd.

Perfectly • Purposely • Placed

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 AM + 6 PM

WEDNESDAY

YOUTH & ADULT BIBLE STUDY 6:30

Paul Hatcher - Pastor

Address - 1223 S. Perkins Rd.

Phone: 405-372-2411

Email: southsidesillwater@gmail.com

The Islamic

Society of Stillwater

616 N. Washington St.

Friday (Weekly) Prayers

1:40 PM - 2:10 PM

For Daily Prayer Times

www.icstillwater.org

St. Francis Xavier

Catholic Church

711 N. Country Club Rd.

Sunday Mass

8:30 | 11:15 a.m.

1 p.m. (en español)

Tue & Thu Mass

12:10 p.m.

Wednesday Mass

12:10 p.m.

6 p.m. (en español)

Friday Mass

12:10 p.m.

Saturday Mass

9 a.m. | 5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

Confessions

Tues-Fri | 11:30-12 p.m.

Wednesday | 5 p.m.

Saturday | 9:45-11 a.m.

405-372-6886

www.sfxstillwater.org

Zion Lutheran

Church - LCMS

Sunday - 8:00, 10:30 AM

www.zionlutheranstw.org

John E. Wackler, Pastor

504 S. Knoblock • 372-3703