The Story of Khidr and Prophet Musa (Moses)

During the long journey to the Promised Land, the Prophet Musa (Moses) learned many lessons.

One day he was feeling very proud that he must be the most knowledgeable man in the world. He said to himself, ‘Allah (God) speaks to me directly and therefore there cannot be anyone more knowledgeable than me’.

Allah (God) did not like Prophet Musa’s (Moses’) pride. Knowledge should make people humble and not proud. Allah (God) told Prophet Musa (Moses) to walk along the sea shore until he sees a miracle and that is where he will find Khidr a man who has more knowledge than him. This made Prophet Musa (Moses) very curious, why has he not heard of this man.

Prophet Musa (Moses) began his journey along the seashore with his young disciple, Yusha bin Nun. At a certain point the fish they were carrying to eat revived and slipped away into the sea. This was a miracle. Prophet Musa (Moses) knew this is where they will find Khidr.

When Prophet Musa (Moses) saw Khidr he asked “May I follow you, and be guided by your knowledge?”.

“All impossible!” said Khidr, “For how can you tolerate what is beyond your knowledge?” Prophet Musa (Moses) replied: “If Allah (God) wills, you shall find me patient”. Khidr agreed but warned Prophet Musa (Moses) not to question him about anything, he will explain things to him when he is ready.

On their journey together they saw a ship. Khidr went close to the ship and made a hole in it. Prophet Musa (Moses) was shocked. “Do you want to drown the passengers?”

“Didn’t I tell you,” replied Khidr “that you will find my actions difficult to understand?” “Forgive me,” said Prophet Musa (Moses) “Please don’t be angry”.

Exemplar by Sue Fearon, Claire Finkel, Zahida Hussain, Rosemary Sargent, Simone Whitehouse
They continued their journey and came to a city. They were very hungry and asked some people for food. The people in the city were not very polite, they told them to go away and refused to give them any food. As they were leaving the city they saw a wall that was crumbling. This wall was there to protect the city from any invaders. Khidr repaired the wall without asking for any payment. Prophet Musa (Moses) became angry at Khidr and said, ‘Khidr, you should have asked the people of the city to pay for the repairs to the wall, we could have bought some food to eat’.

Khidr replied, ‘that is enough our journey together ends here. But first I will explain my actions which seemed so dreadful to you. I damaged the ship because it belonged to poor fishermen. There is a king in this area today that will be capturing ships and taking people on board the ship as slaves. I did not want the fishermen at sea today, because I did not want them lose their ship or be taken as slaves. By the time they have repaired their ship the king would have returned to his homeland. So I made the hole to protect the fishermen and not to harm them’.

Khidr then went on to explain his other action, “The wall belonged to two orphans, sons of an honest man in the city. The honest man had built the wall to protect the city, so that his sons could grow up in the city in safety. He buried treasure underneath the walls for his sons to keep it safe. He wanted to give the treasure to his sons when they grew up. The honest man has died. I repaired the wall so that the treasure can remain safe until the orphans grow up, as their father had wished.’