

### **Al-Qasas (The Narration) [28:15]**

وَدَخَلَ الْمَدِينَةَ عَلَىٰ حِينٍ غَفْلَةٍ مِّنْ أَهْلِهَا فَوَجَدَ  
فِيهَا رَجُلَيْنِ يَتَتَلَّانِ هَذَا مِنْ شِيعَتِهِ ۖ وَهَذَا مِنْ عَدُوِّهِ ۖ فَاسْتَغْنَاهُ  
الَّذِي مِنْ شِيعَتِهِ ۖ عَلَىٰ الَّذِي مِنْ عَدُوِّهِ فَوَكَرَهُ مُوسَىٰ فَقَضَىٰ  
عَلَيْهِ ۖ قَالَ هَذَا مِنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ ۖ إِنَّهُ عَدُوٌّ مُّضِلٌّ مُّبِينٌ ﴿١٥﴾

And he entered the city at a time when its people were not watching: and he found there two men fighting,- one of his own religion, and the other, of his foes. Now the man of his own religion appealed to him against his foe, and Moses struck him with his fist and made an end of him. He said: "This is a work of Evil (Satan): for he is an enemy that manifestly misleads!"

### **MUHAMMAD HUSAIN TABA TABAI (AR)**

*And he entered the city at a time of unawareness of its people, and he found there two men fighting –one of his party (or religion) and the other of his foes. The man of his (own) party asked him for help against his foe, so Musa struck him with his fist and killed him. He said, This is Satan’s doing, verily he is a plain misleading enemy.*

The second part of the verse is about Musa leaving his own city and reaching Median and the events that followed. The people of Median were sleeping when Musa entered it because it was night. The palace of the Pharaoh was situated close by and Musa passed by. Quran confirms this, “It was midnight, the shops were closed and the streets were deserted.”

- When he entered the city he found two men at loggerheads, one was of his own tribe of Israel and the other belonged to the Pharaoh’s people, a Copt.
- Though the Israelis were assumed to be related with Hazrat Ibrahim and his religion; this was just a pretension for they obeyed the Pharaoh.
- The Copts were however the sworn enemy of the Bani Israel.
- The second man who was fighting the Israeli was a Copt.
- And Musa invokes his Lord as described in verse 14 of Surah Shu’ara that says, “And they have a charge of crime against me and I fear they will kill me”
- The man of his own party asked him for help against the foe.
- Musa struck him (the enemy) with his fist and the man died.
- This was an accidental or unpremeditated murder.

- This accident was then attributed to Satan because it was he who had got them fighting and it ended with the death of the Copt due to the intervention by Hazrat Musa.
- It became a source of a great problem because the incident never remained secret.
- The Copts brought it to the notice of the Pharaoh and the elders of Egypt.
- These people in turn decided to avenge this death on Hazrat Musa and his people.
- This is the reason why Hazrat Musa regretted having struck and killed the Copt.
- But he did not attribute it to the will of God because God always desires and commands good towards the straight and correct path.
- The responsibility then lay upon Satan.
- What he did was to defend an Israeli from a Copt and an enemy.
- Satan who incites people to sin by sowing temptations in their hearts – deserts people in this fashion.
- He did the same with Hazrat Adam and his wife Hawwa.
- He incited them to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree and as a result both were expelled from Paradise.

The words “This is Satan’s doing” means that temptation that led to the fight between the Israeli and the Copt and the death of the latter. This was the beginning of a great tribulation and Hazrat Musa regretted it. The words, “Verily he is a plain misleading enemy” that this was the result of Satan and cannot be attributed to God. It is Satan who is the enemy of Mankind and it was his planning and execution that led to this event and as a result the Pharaoh became Hazrat Musa’s enemy. This can be discerned from the words, of Surah Shu’ara Verses 19 and 20 that say, “ “And you did your deed which you did (the accident of killing a man) and you are one of the ingrates. Musa said, *I did it then , when I was an ignorant (as regards my Lord’s message).*”

Tafsir Qummi tells us that Hazrat Musa went to the Pharaoh’s court to preach monotheism but the Pharaoh rejected his teachings , so he returned. . This was the night when those two people were fighting in the city. One was siding with Musa and the other with the Pharaoh and it was then that the Israeli called out to Hazrat Musa who went to his aid and struck the Copt who died instantly. The news spread in the city. The next day another Copt was fighting the same Israeli who again called Hazrat Musa for help but when the Copt saw him he said, “ Will you kill me too like you killed my friend yesterday?” This increase the fury of the fight.

In the book Ayyun, Ali bin Muhammad bin Al Jaham is quoted saying,

Once I went to the court of Mamun Rashid and Imam Ridha (AS) was present there. Mamun asked him, “ O son of the Messenger! Are the prophets infallible?” The Imam answered, “Indeed!” Mamun then asked the meaning of the words, *So Musa struck him with his fist and killed him.*

The Imam answered,

- Indeed it was the time between Maghrib and Isha when Musa entered the city of the Pharaoh and the people were sleeping.
- Here on the streets he found two people fighting, one of whom was an Israeli and the other a Copt an enemy.
- The latter died because Hazrat Musa struck him a blow by the command of God.
- The Satanic deed was that they were fighting each other and it resulted in his death.
- This is why Satan is called an open enemy of God.

Mamun then asked, Then what is the meaning of the words, *He said, verily I have wronged myself so forgive me?*

The Imam answered that

- Musa declared that he has associated with the wrong people in the city and so asked God for a protected place in order that people may not catch and kill him.
- God gave Musa His protection, and so He is All forgiving and oft-merciful.

Musa also said, *O God you gave me the strength and I struck and killed an enemy but I certainly did not abet the criminal and I simply wanted to fight in your way to get your blessing.*

This was the reason that Musa passed the night in fear of the enemy and the next when the same Israeli began fighting another Copt, Musa told him that he was wrong. For it was due to him that a person died yesterday and he wanted that to happen again. It was at this moment that the second Copt said, *Do you want to kill me today like you killed my fellow men last night? Do you want to be a dictator on this world?*

Mamun then thanked the Imam for this explanation.

**MIR AHMED ALI (AR)**

One day, Musa found an Egyptian cook of Firawn beating a poor helpless Jew who sought Musa's help. Musa asked the Egyptian to spare the poor Jew but he did not cease beating him whereupon Musa gave a blow to make him stay away from the Jew but the Egyptian fell dead.

Musa had killed the offender in an effort to help the oppressed Jew, but fearing that Egyptians would retaliate for the death of a fellow Egyptian, Musa prayed to Allah to keep his deed hidden from the men of Firawn.

Faghfir-li here means "protect me".