The Ashaab e Kahf

Tales of Mercy from the Quran

For ages 3 – 5

For the little ones

By Umm Aaminah

Tales from the Quran focusing on Allah's Mercy

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Assalamu Alaykum,

I have been narrating stories from the Quran to my daughter since she was 3 years old. She is 4.5 now MashaAllah. Recently I started including actual verses of the Quran into the stories, so that she memorizes the verses and knows that these stories are from the Quran. This will also connect her more to the Quran InshaAllah. I also like to focus more on Allah's aspect of mercy rather than punishment and try not to talk much about punishment and death, as very young children can not understand this concept as yet.

The following is the story of Ashaab e Kahaf, which also includes a very brief tafsir as to why this Surah was revealed. This will further attach my daughter to our beloved Prophet Muhammad and will InshaAllah result in developing a strong attachment and love for Muhammad sallallahu alayhi wasallam. This story is meant to be narrated by the parent. It would be best for the parent to read this story, memorize the verses and narrate them in their own words, full of emotions. I hope you will find the story beneficial.

Wsalam,
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Once upon a time in the city of Makkah, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was sitting when a few Meccans came to him and asked him ‘What can you tell us about the Ashaab e Kahf (Companions of the cave)?

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ did not know anything about the Ashaab e Kahf, so he told them to come back the next day, as he hoped that Allah will tell him about the Ashab e Kahf through the Angel Jibreel ﷺ.

But Prophet Muhammad forgot to say Innsha Allah. So Allah did not send the angel for many many days. Until one day Angel Jibreel came with the Surah Kahf.

It is Allah who told us the real story of the Ashaab e Kahf in the Quran.
Allah said...

أَمْ حَسِبْتَ أَنَّ أَصْحَابَ الْكَهْفِ وَالرَّقِيمِ كَانُوا مِنْ آيَاتِنَا عَجَبًا

Or have you thought that the companions of the cave and the inscription were, among Our signs, a wonder?

ِّنَّحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ نَبَأَهُم بِالْحَقِّ إِنَّهُمْ فَتِيَةٌ آمَنُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ وَزِدْنَاهُمْ هُدًى

It is We who relate to you, [O Muhammad], their story in truth. Indeed, they were youths who believed in their Lord, and We increased them in guidance.
The Ashaab e Kahf were young boys of a noble family. The people of their kingdom used to worship idols and the moon, but these boys realized that the idols made of wood and stone and the stars and the moon cannot be God.

They believed only in Allah, so Allah guided them. The people of the Kingdom asked them, who is your Rabb? So they said:

فَقَالُوا رَبُّنَا رَبُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ لَن نَّدْعُوَ مِن دُونِهِ إِلَـٰهًا

They said, "Our Lord is the Lord of the heavens and the earth. Never will we invoke besides Him any deity.

The people became their enemies, so the boys decided to leave their city and hide inside a cave. They trusted in Allah and hoped for His Mercy and His help.

وَإِذِ اعْتَزَلْتُمُوهُمْ وَمَا يَعْبُدُونَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ فَأْوُوا إِلَى الْكَهْفِ يَنشُرْ لَكُمْ رَبُّكُم مِِّن رَّحْمَتِهِ وَيُهَيِِّئْ لَكُم مِِّنْ أَمْرِكُم مِِّرْفَقًا

[The youths said to one another], "And when you have withdrawn from them and that which they worship other than Allah, retreat to the cave. Your Lord will spread out for you of His mercy and will prepare for you from your affair facility."
When they reached the cave, they asked Allah for help. They said

رَبَّنَا آتِنَا مِن لَّدُنكَ رَحْمَةً وَهِيِّئْ لَنَا مِنْ أَمْرِنَا رَشَدًا

"Our Lord, grant us from Yourself mercy and prepare for us from our affair right guidance."

Allah was pleased with them because they were on Tawheed and only believed and worshipped Allah. So it was Allah’s mercy that He helped the Ashaab e Kahf.

He heard their prayer and then caused a miracle to happen. With His power over life and death, He made them fall into a deep sleep for many many years, to save them from their enemies. They kept on sleeping without eating or drinking in the cave. They only turned from side to side in their sleep. Even their dog slept with them with his legs stretched out across the entrance to the cave.

After many many years...about 300 years or so, Allah woke them up and they spoke to each other, wondering how long they had slept. One of them said “We have been here for a day or part of a day”, but another one of them said “Only Allah knows how long we stayed here”

The young men did not realize that they had been sleeping in the cave for more than 300 hundred years!!

They were hungry, so one of them decided to go out to town and buy some food. He bought some food and paid the shopkeeper with the silver coin he had. The shop keeper was amazed see such an old silver coin which was not in use anymore!
Soon people discovered what had really happened and went to see the cave where the Ashab e Kahf had been sleeping.

They realized that just like Allah can put these young men to sleep for hundreds of years and then wake them up, Allah can also wake all of us up on the day of judgment.

**LESSONS FROM THE STORY**

- Allah loves those who believe in Him and worship Him Alone.
- It was Allah’s mercy that He helped and saved the Ashab e Kahf.
- Those who truly believe in Allah and put their entire trust in Him, Allah will surely help them in unknown ways.
- Only Allah has Ilm ul Ghaib. Prophet Muhammad did not know about the Ashab e Kahf until Allah sent a wahi through angel Jibreel.
- There really is life after death and it is very easy for Allah to give life and to give death and to bring back to life after death.
- Stay with the Truth and never give up your True Religion no matter how hard the situation.

In Quran, Surah Kahaf Chapter 18 Verse 9 – 22 talks about the story of the Ashab e Kahf.

This event is said to have happened in A.D. 250 in the city of Ephesus which is now a part of modern day Turkey.
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