

A Story From the Holy Quran

By Aliah Jafari

Translated by Sayyid Jafar Mosavi

“And you know well those amongst you who transgressed in the matter of the Sabbath: We said to them: “Be you apes, despised and rejected. So We made it an example to their own time and to their posterity, and a lesson to those who fear Allah.” The Quran (2: 65 - 66)

About the above - mentioned verse, Imam Sajjad (A.S.) has stated: “These groups whom God refers to their story, were a group of people who lived in the seaside and God prohibited them to fish on Saturdays and the prophet of time had warned them not to take a fish on Saturdays too; but they asked for fishing out of trick to be lawful on Saturdays.

Therefore, they began digging the streams and the little pools to connect them to the sea so that the fish could easily enter the streams and the little pools; but when the fish wanted to go back to the sea, they got stuck in the traps. As they were granted safety by God, the fish felt that they were safe from the fishers on Saturdays and entered the little pools through the streams, but when they wanted to return to the sea at night, they could easily be trapped. Without any problem, the fishers trapped the fish on Sundays. To show off away from committing sin, they said: “We have not fished on Saturdays, we fish today which is Sunday; for fishing is prohibited for us on Saturdays. Imam Sajjad (A.S.) also added that: they were telling lies; for they took a lot of fish from the streams and the little pools which they had prepared on Saturdays and because of that, they got a lot of wealth and enjoyed a good life.



Besides, at that village, there lived about 800 and thousands and 70 thousands out of them were pleased with such a trick; whereas, the others forbade them from doing so, as well as opposing God. As it has been referred to their story in this verse: "And ask them about the town which stood by the sea; when they exceeded the limits of the Sabbath." The Quran (7: 163)

On the other, at this village, a group of them used to frighten the trickery and threatened them to be punished dreadfully and another group (according to the narratives) were silent and said to the forbaders: "Why do you admonish a people whom Allah would destroy or whom He would chastise with a severe chastisement." The Quran (7: 164)

In reply to them, he said: "We are commissioned to enjoin doing good and forbid doing evil and warn them that we are against them and hate their acts. So, our advice may be useful for them and they may avoid doing evil deeds. But their words did not work, leaving there for another village to settle and said: "Nothing is certain that a Divine chastisement bestowed on us."

When they left there, God turned all the residents to monkey at night and the castle was opened in the mourning so that no one could enter and come out of it. Finally, the news reached the people of neighbouring villages. For further information, they went to that village and saw all of them were in the figure of monkey. Someone asked one of them which looked to be his relatives or friends: "Are you such a person?" And he signed with his head, said: "Yes! I am."

For 3 days, they remained in such a situation. Then, God sent a severe rain and dreadful storm and drove them to the sea so that none of them lived more than 3 days.

It should be noted that the monkeys which are found now in the world and looked like them, are the creatures in the figure of them, but they are not of their race.

