

Surah 40. Al-Mu'min

Asad: Now [as for Pharaoh and his followers,] when he came to them, setting forth the truth from Us, they said, "Slay the sons of those who share his beliefs,¹⁷ and spare [only] their women! " - but the guile of those deniers of the truth could not lead to aught but failure.

Malik: Then, when he brought them the truth from Us, they said: "Kill the sons of those who share his faith and spare only their females." But futile were the schemes of the unbelievers.

Mustafa Khattab:

Then, when he came to them with the truth from Us, they said, "Kill the sons of those who believe with him and keep their women." But the plotting of the disbelievers was only in vain.

Pickthall: And when he brought them the Truth from Our presence, they said: Slay the sons of those who believe with him, and spare their women. But the plot of disbelievers is in naught but error.

Yusuf Ali: Now when he came to them in Truth from Us they said "Slay the sons of those who believe with him and keep alive their females" but the plots of Unbelievers (end) in nothing but errors (and delusions)!"... ^{4391 4392}

Author Comments

17 - Lit., "those who have come to believe with him".

4391 - Verse 24 described the opposition of three types of Unfaith, which opposed Faith, in different ways, as described in the last note. Qarun, in his overweening insolence, may well have called Moses and Aaron "sorcerers telling lies" in the Sinai desert, as he despised priests and men of God, and might cast the Egyptian reproach in their teeth as a reminiscence. Here, in verse 25, we have an episode about the time of the birth of Moses: "them" and "they" refer to Pharaoh and his Court; the "coming" of Moses here refers to the time of his birth. On that construction, "with him", lower down in their speech would be elliptical, referring to "slay the sons", as if they had said, "Kill all Israelite male children: the unknown Prophet to be born would be amongst them: so kill them all with him." In verse 26 we again skip some years and recall an episode when Moses, having got his mission, stood in Pharaoh's Court, and some of the Egyptian Commonalty were almost ready to believe in him.

4392 - That is, the Israelites, for they were the custodians of Allah's Faith then. For the slaughter of Israelite children by Pharaoh, see xxviii. 4-6, and notes.

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Source : *Alim.org-Compare Translation-Surah 40-Ayah 25*