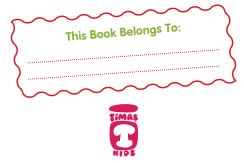


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The Pharaoh was jolted out of his sleep, awoken in a cold sweat. He was the ruler of Egypt, but now he was very frightened.

He had had another nightmare. The Pharaoh had been having many such nightmares ever since an old soothsayer spoke these words to him:

"A boy born from the people of Banu Israil is going to end your rule!"







Night after night, the Pharaoh could not sleep. He felt as if he were choking. He had to save himself from the soothsayer's words. He began to think.

Soon the Pharaoh came up with a horrible plan. He ordered all the newborn

> boys of Banu Israil to be killed. The wicked Pharaoh sent his soldiers to search throughout the land for all male babies of Banu Israil. As soon as they found one, they heartlessly murdered him.









In the land there lived a man named Im. ran and his wife, Yuqabid. Both husband and wife were worried, for Yuqabid was $p_{regnant}$. When she was about to $gi_{v_{el}}$ birth, Imran told her to go to a secret pla. ce. Soon Allah gave her a healthy a_{nd} beautiful baby boy. Yuqabid named the baby Musa. Aby hide did her best to hide Musa. If the soldiers found out about him they wo. uld kill him! "O Allah! Please help me save my baby from the Pharaoh!" Yuqabid cried out in prayer.

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Allah inspired Yuqabid's heart with a way to save little Musa. She put the baby into a basket made of reeds and placed it into the River Nile.

Yuqabid was a woman of great faith.

As the basket flowed down the river, Yuqabid ran home. She told her daughter Maryam:

"Follow the basket from the riverbank," she said. "See where it stops with your baby brother."



In those days there was a huge and magnificent palace on the banks of the Nile. The river pulled the basket in front of the palace's garden. The Pharaoh and his wife, Asiya, happened to be walking in the garden. Asiya spotted the basket.

"Look!" she exclaimed to the Pharaoh. "The river has brought us a gift!"







The Pharach was suspicious.

Why is this basket in the water? He called for his guards.

They brought the basket and put it in front of Queen Asiya. She opened the box. There she saw a beautiful baby smiling.

"The Nile has brought us a wonderful present," she said, clapping her hands.





But the Pharaoh didn't agree. Where did this child come from? A vizier saw that the Pharaoh was bothered by this.

"Your Majesty!" he whispered to the Pharaoh. "This baby might be from Banu Israil. You should have him killed."

"Please don't do that my king!" cried Asiya. "Perhaps we can adopt him and raise him as our son."

The Pharaoh looked at the baby in his wife's arms.

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the Pharaoh stood there for while looking at his wife.

"Very well," he finally said to her. "Do as you like!"

Musa's big sister, Maryam, was watching everything from her hiding place along the banks of the river. When she heard the Pharaoh's words she ran home to her mother. "Thank you O Lord!" exclai-"Thank you O Lord!" exclaimed Musa's mother when she heard med Musa's mother when she heard the news that he was safe.



Rescued from the river Muga became hungry. He began to cry and cry. Queen Asiya quickly found a nurse for him. But Musa didn't nurse from this woman. The queen found another nurse. But the baby wouldn't nurse from this woman either. Queen Asiya became very worried. The baby must nurse! Soon, word spread all over Egypt that the palace needed a nurse.





When she heard the news, Musa's mother, Yuqabid, came to the palace. Queen Asiya handed baby Musa over to her. The baby recognized his mother and he began to nurse. Musa's stomach became filled with his own mother's milk. Allah, by His power and might, had caused mother and son to be joined together again.

Musa grew bigger day by day. In time he became a powerful young man. He was clever, strong, and kindhearted. Queen Asiya loved him very much. She always tried her best to keep Musa away from bad company.



