

Surah 18. Al-Kahf

Asad: "And as for that young man, his parents were [true] believers - whereas we had every reason to fear⁷⁸ that he would bring bitter grief upon them by [his] overweening wickedness and denial of all truth:

Malik: As for the youth, his parents are true believers, and we feared lest he would grieve them with his rebellion and unbelief.

Pickthall: And as for the lad, his parents were believers and We feared lest he should oppress them by rebellion and disbelief.

Yusuf Ali: "As for the youth his parents were people of Faith and we feared that he would grieve them by obstinate rebellion and ingratitude (to Allah and man).²⁴²³

Transliteration: Waamma alghulamu fakana abawahu muminayni fakhasheena an yurhiqahuma tughyanan wakufra

Khatab:

"And as for the boy, his parents were ?true? believers, and we¹ feared that he would pressure them into defiance and disbelief.

Author Comments

78 - Lit., "we feared" - but it should be borne in mind that, beyond this primary meaning, the verb khashiya sometimes denotes "he had reason to fear" and, consequently, "he knew", i.e., that something bad would happen (Taj al-'Arus, with specific reference to the above verse): and so we may assume that the sage's expression of "fear" was synonymous with positive "knowledge" gained through outward evidence or through mystic insight (the latter being more probable, as indicated by his statement in the second paragraph of the next verse, "I did not do [any of] this of my own accord").

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This is the royal 'we'.

2423 - This seemed at first sight even a more cruel act than scuttling the boat. But the danger was also greater. Khidhr knew that the youth was a potential parricide. His parents were worthy, pious people, who had brought him up with love. He had apparently gone wrong. Perhaps he had already been guilty of murders and robberies and had escaped the law by subtleties and fraud. See next note.

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